

CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE PARTICIPATION PLAN

Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project
(MCCAP)



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**Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project
(MCCAP)**

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**Belize Fisheries Department
GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE**

**With the Support of
The Nature Conservancy**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AF	Adaptation Fund
BELTRAIDE	Belize Trade and Investment Development Service
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
BFCA	Belize Fishermen Cooperatives Association
BFF	Belize Fishermen's Federation
BTB	Belize Tourism Board
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBO	Community Based Organization
CERD	Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CBWS	Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
CZMAI	Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute
DFA	Dangriga Fishermen Association
GRM	Grievance Redressal Mechanism
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IP	Indigenous Peoples
ITVET	Institute for Technical and Vocational Education & Training
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MCCAP	Marine Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation Project
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MDG	Millenium Development Goals
MFFSD	Ministry of Forest, Fisheries and Sustainable Development
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment
MIE	Multilateral Implementing Entity
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NPAS	National Park System Act
NPASP	National Protected Area System Plan
NTZ	No-Take Zone
NIE	National Implementing Entity

NGO	Non-government Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
PACT	Protected Areas Conservation Trust
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RZ	Replenishment Zone
SACD	Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development
SBDC	Small Business Development Center
SEA	Southern Environmental Association
SWCMR	South Water Caye Marine Reserve
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TAMR	Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve
TASA	Turneff Atoll Sustainability Association
UNDRIPS	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WB	The World Bank

1 INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Forest, Fisheries and Sustainable Development (MFFSD) with fiduciary assistance from Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) and the World Bank as Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE), proposes to implement the Marine Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation Project (MCCAP) in the coastal areas of Belize for US\$6 million with funding from the Adaptation Fund (AF). The objective of the proposed MCCAP is to implement a priority ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System and its productive marine resources.

The MCCAP will be implemented in three of Belize's Fishing Regions (North, Central and South) which covers several coastal communities. The communities that will be impacted directly by expansion of Marine Protected Areas (MPA), establishment of Replenishment Zones (RZ) and the enforcement of No-Take Zones (NTZ) will be those closely connected to the project's priority areas which are the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (CBWS), Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve (TAMR) and South Water Caye Marine Reserve (SWCMR). The refinement and demarcation of the boundary of the TAMR, expansion of the CBWS, the re-alignment of the replenishment (no-take) zones and the concomitant monitoring and enforcement in all three targeted MPAs are likely to result restrictions to resources and therefore will likely impact on the livelihoods and well-being of local communities even though the MPAs are already in place.

This Culturally Appropriate Consultation and Participation Plan is part of the social management safeguards required by the World Bank's Operational Policy 4.10 in relation to Indigenous Peoples. It reaffirms the rights of citizens and indigenous peoples guaranteed in the Constitution of Belize and in international conventions ratified by the Government of Belize. The Plan establishes measures through which Indigenous Peoples and fishing communities who are adversely affected by the project will receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits and also measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential adverse effects.

The term "Indigenous People" for this Plan is used in a generic sense to refer to a distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural group possessing the following characteristics in varying degrees:

- self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others;
- collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories;
- customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and
- an indigenous language, often different from the official language of the country or region.

Given that the coastal fishing communities in Belize are composed of diverse ethnic and cultural groups, the Plan takes a community-wide approach and extends the spirit of the social safeguard policy to non-indigenous communities as the potential challenges and opportunities they face are

similar. Therefore, instead of having an Indigenous Peoples Plan, the instrument is referred to here as the Culturally Appropriate Participation Plan to reflect the broad inclusion of all affected communities.

The remainder of the document is organized as follows: Section 2 provides a description of the project including the main components and activities. Section 3 describes the institutional and legal framework. Section 4 provides a summary of the social assessment done. Section 5 provides an overview of the stakeholder consultation carried out. Section 6 identifies potential social impacts on Indigenous Peoples and local fishing communities and mitigating measures. Section 7 outlines a culturally appropriate consultation process and gender considerations. Section 8 defines the livelihoods restoration and mitigation plan. Section 9 follows up with an estimated budget for that plan. Section 10 outlines a grievance redressal mechanism and procedures. And finally, Section 11 closes with the monitoring and evaluation framework for the consultation and participation plan.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Marine Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation Project (MCCAP) is to implement the priority ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System and its productive marine resources. Specifically, the project will support, (i) the improvement of the reef's protection regime including an expansion and enforcement of MPAs and RZs in strategically selected locations to climate resilience, (ii) promotion of sustainable alternative livelihoods for affected users of the reef, and (iii) building local capacity and raising awareness regarding the overall health of the reef ecosystem and the climate resilience of coral reefs. The activities are carefully selected based on the concept that the best chance of enhancing the resilience (resistance and recovery potential) of natural systems to climate change impacts is to reduce local stressors which undermine the innate resilience to external shocks that is characteristic of healthy, robust ecosystems and to strengthen the coral reefs thermal resilience.

2.2 PROJECT COMPONENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The MCCAP has three main components. Component 1 is focused on strengthening regulatory and institutional processes to promote the conservation of marine resources. Component 2 is intended to address the impacts of the management and conservation measures on users of the reef who are affected. Component 3 aims to promote capacity building among stakeholders and develop a greater understanding and appreciation for climate change adaptation and marine conservation.

Component 1 – Improving the Protection Regime of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems

This component is aimed at programmatically mainstreaming specific climate change adaptation measures in the on-going efforts of the Government of Belize for the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems. This would be achieved through: a) expanding and securing the MPAs and RZs in strategically selected locations to build climate resilience, and b) strengthening the legal framework for management of the MPAs and coastal zones. Activities under Component 1 are as follows:

Activity 1	Realignment and expansion of replenishment zones and management areas within selected MPAs (TAMR, SWCMR and CBWS)
Activity 2	Supporting the management of the selected MPAs
Activity 3	Re-population of coral reefs
Activity 4	Strengthening the legal framework for the MPA network and the management of the coastal zone

Component 2 – Support for viable and sustainable alternative livelihoods for affected users of the reef in the areas impacted by project activities

This component aims to support economically viable and sustainable alternative livelihoods for local populations whose economic activities are directly impacted by the adverse effects of climate change as well as by the expansion and enhanced enforcement of MPAs and replenishment zones. Promotion of sustainable alternative livelihoods would also contribute to reducing the anthropogenic stressors on the marine resources which in turn increases the health of reefs and associated marine and coastal ecosystems and their resilience to climate impacts. The primary targets are the twelve (12) coastal communities that utilize the marine and coastal resources of Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve, and South Water Caye Marine Reserve as a principal source of income. Specific activities under this component are as follows:

Activity 1	Community Mobilization for Alternative Livelihoods
Activity 2	Business planning for economic alternatives and diversification sub-projects
Activity 3	Skills training to facilitate the coastal communities' transition to alternative livelihoods
Activity 4	Sub-grants mechanism for community-based business ventures

Component 3 – Raising awareness, building of local capacity, and dissemination of information

This component aims to: a) increase the understanding by local stakeholders about impacts of climate change and the value of marine conservation to build support for the National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan (NPAPSP) as a strategy to ensure the long term sustainability of natural resources, b) build local capacity to develop and explore climate resilience strategies, and c) provide regular and accessible public information on climate change effects in the marine ecosystems and coastal zone to promote behaviour change designed to minimize climate risks in MPAs and replenishment zones (for example, through respecting the relevant laws, reduction of overfishing and reporting of infractions, etc.). Specific activities under this component are as follows:

Activity 1	Undertake a climate change knowledge, attitude and behavioural practice (KAP) survey
Activity 2	Undertake a behaviour change communication (BCC) campaign to develop climate resilience strategy among local communities
Activity 3	Undertake project information dissemination
Activity 4	Establish an Inter-community Learning Forum

3 INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 MANAGEMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

The legal basis on which Minister responsible for the fisheries sector can institute regulations to manage the fishing industry including the declaration of marine protected areas is provided for in Section 14 of the Fisheries Act, Chapter 210 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000. Similarly the Forest Act, Chapter 213 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000 empowers the Minister responsible to declare forest reserves and it is under this authority that the CBWS specifically has been established. The management of the CBWS falls under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department because the area was declared under the NPSA. However, the regulation of the use of marine resources and protection of same falls under the Fisheries Department. The Fisheries Department has full responsibility for the TAMR and the SWCMR.

The Coastal Zone Management Act, Chapter 329 of the Laws of Belize also establishes both the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI) with a view to ensure the proper and sustainable use of the Belize's coastal areas. Part V, Section 23 of the same Act also mandates the development of a comprehensive Coastal Zone Management Plan for the purpose of, *inter alia*, the development of guidelines for determining development suitability, general monitoring of the coastal zone and improvement of public education and participation in the management of coastal resources. This aspect of the work of the CZMAI will be supported under the project by assisting with implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Plan.

3.2 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Indigenous peoples in Belize are recognized by the Constitution in its preamble where it affirms the rights of all citizens. The preamble which was amended by Act No. 2 of 2001 makes explicit reference to the indigenous peoples of Belize. The relevant parts are quoted here:

“WHEREAS the people of Belize ... (a) affirm that the Nation of Belize shall be founded upon principles which acknowledge ... faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms ... and the equal and inalienable rights with which all members of the human family are endowed ... (e) require policies of state which protect ... the identity, dignity and social and cultural values of Belizeans, including Belize's indigenous peoples ... with respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings among nations.” (Emphasis added)

The Constitution contemplates and guarantees the same protection of fundamental rights to indigenous peoples as it does for the rest of the citizenry. Section 3 (a) of the Constitution guarantees that “every person in Belize is entitled to ... life, liberty, security of the person, and the protection of the law.” Citizens including indigenous people are also protected from discrimination under the provisions of Section 16 where it states that “no law shall make any provision that is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect and no person shall be treated in a discriminatory manner by any person or authority.” Discrimination, under the Constitution means:

“...affording different treatment to different persons attributable wholly or mainly to their respective descriptions by sex, race, place of origin, political opinions, colour or creed whereby persons of one such description are subjected to disabilities or restrictions to which persons of another such description are not made subject or are accorded privileges or advantages which are not accorded to persons of another such description.”

There is no specific domestic legislation that outlines the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination and autonomy. However, as a member of the international community, the State is also required to protect the rights of indigenous people based on its commitments and subscriptions under international law and treaty obligations. Belize is a party to several international treaties including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD); and The Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS); all of which speaks to the important of respecting the rights of indigenous peoples over their land and resources. In 1997, the Committee for the Elimination of the All Forms of Racial Discrimination called on all States:

“...to recognize and protect the rights of indigenous peoples to own, develop, control and use communal lands, territories and resources and where they have been deprived of their lands and territories traditionally owned or otherwise inhabited or used without their free and informed consent, to take steps to return these lands and territories.”

The United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIPS) also provides an international framework for the recognition and support for the rights of indigenous peoples. The UNDRIP was adopted by resolution of the UN General Assembly on September 13, 2007. It is a non-legally binding aspirational document that describes both individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples around the world. It addresses issues such as culture, identity, language, health and education and provides guidance to states, the United Nations, and other international organizations on harmonious, cooperative relationships with Indigenous Peoples. It is based on the principles of equality, partnership, good faith and mutual respect. UNDRIPS specifically calls for the protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples under Article 26 where it states:

- Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
- Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
- States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Similarly, the OAS Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man adopted in 1948 in Bogota, Colombia, also sets out human rights including cultural rights to be enjoyed by citizens of member states. While not necessarily binding, the provisions of the declaration have become a source of legal norm for Belize since becoming a member of the OAS in 1981. The Inter-American

Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) is an organ of the Organization of American States (OAS) that promotes the observance and defence of human rights and to serve as a consultative organ of the OAS. The human rights advanced by the IACHR are enshrined in the American Convention on Human Rights and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man among others. Indigenous people in Belize have used this mechanism to advance respect for their rights by the State.

3.3 MANDATE OF VILLAGE COUNCILS

All villages in Belize fall under the local governance system established through the Village Council system. The Village Council Act, Chapter 88, of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, establishes and empowers village councils to act on the good government and improvement of their respective villages. The Act allows community members to establish a village council through democratic elections that serves for a period of three years. All of the identified villages under consideration for this project have such village councils established. According to the Act, they are responsible for the general wellbeing of the community including the care and maintenance of public property and to make regulations to improve the quality of life for residents. Most village councils however remain weak and are challenged by limited capacity. They often do not have the financial resources or the leadership capacity to carry out their mandate.

Indigenous Garifuna communities do not have a traditional system of leadership. This role is played by the Village Council chairman of those villages. The project will need to consult with these leaders and the formal representatives of fishers where project activities are concerned.

3.4 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Much of the lives of fishing communities are affected by local non-government and community based organizations. Non-government Organizations (NGOs) are legal entities registered either under the Non-Government Organizations Act, Chapter 315 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000 or under the Company Laws of Belize, Chapter 206, Revised Edition 1980 as Limited Liability Companies. The NGO Act defines what an NGO is, establishes minimum standards of operation and binds them to fiscal transparency. The Act also requires NGOs to submit annual financial reports to the government.

In Sarteneja, the Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD) is an active local NGO that promotes environmental conservation and community development. SACD's membership is made up of other community based organizations, including, the Sarteneja Fishermen's Association, the Sarteneja Tour Guides Association, Wildtracks and the Shipstern Nature Reserve among others. These groups collectively guide the development of the fishing community and are used as a platform to voice the needs and concerns of the community. In the South, the Southern Environmental Association (SEA) plays a similar role. It promotes marine conservation and sustainable development of fishing communities. SEA works with some of the villages under consideration but does not manage any of the MPAs targeted by the MCCAP.

3.5 FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS AND FISHING COOPERATIVES

Fishing associations are also now being established in coastal fishing communities. There is a local fishermen's association in Sarteneja, Dangriga, and Hopkins. There is also a new federation of fishermen called the Belize Fishermen's Federation (BFF) that is attempting to bring together independent fishermen and their associations. It is however in its nascent stages but has a growing membership. Some fishermen from Copper Bank, Chunox and Belize City are independent members of BFF. Fishing associations under the BFF are legal entities registered under the Companies Act as non-profit making.

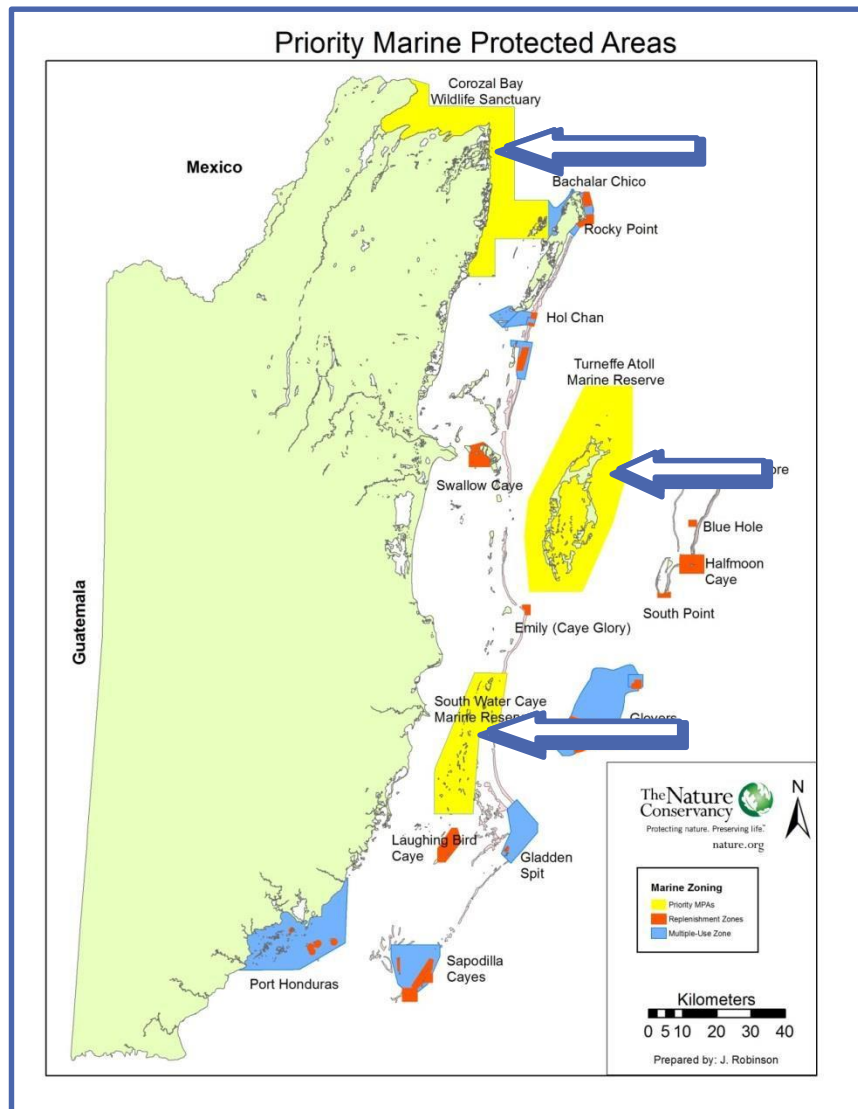
There are also three Cooperatives that have membership within the target area. These are Northern Fishermen Producers Cooperative Society Ltd. (Northern), National Fishermen Producers Cooperative Society Ltd. (National) and the Placencia Fishermen Producers Cooperative Society Ltd. (PPCSL). Northern and National cooperatives are the two main processors and exporters of lobster and conch in Belize. Having been around for more than fifty years, cooperatives remain an important organizational feature in Belize's fishing industry. All cooperatives including fishing cooperatives are governed under the Cooperative Societies Act, Chapter 313 of the Laws of Belize.

4 SUMMARY OF SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

4.1 PROJECT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

The MCCAP will be implemented in all three Fishing Regions (North, Central and South) of Belize which covers several coastal communities including small islands. The communities that will be impacted directly by project activities including the expansion of MPAs, establishment and enforcement of Replenishment Zones will be those that are closely connected and use the priority MPAs which are the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (CBWS), Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve (TAMR) and South Water Caye Marine Reserve (SWCMR).

Figure 1: Location of Target MPAs



Source: The Nature Conservancy, 2013

The main communities affected by the primary geographic focus of the project are identified and shown in Table 1 below. The identified communities are those whose residents are dependent in varying degrees on the targeted MPAs. Of the twelve communities with direct connection to those targets, four are inhabited primarily by the indigenous Garinagu people. Three communities are considered urban while the remaining nine are considered rural.

The fishermen who are likely to experience a greater degree of impact from the project given their connection to all three target protected areas and marine reserves will be those from the villages of Copper Bank, Chunox and Sarteneja. It is important to note that all are similar in ethnic composition (Mestizos) and all are from the northern region of the country. The three indigenous communities, Dangriga, Hopkins, and Seine Bight, are connected mainly to the SWCMR in the south.

Table 1: Project Affected Communities

Community	CBWS	TAMR	SWCMR	Indigenous
Urban				
1. Corozal Town	✓			No
2. Belize City		✓		No
3. Dangriga			✓	Yes
Rural				
1. Consejo	✓			No
2. Copper Bank	✓	✓		No
3. Chunox	✓	✓		No
4. Sarteneja	✓	✓	✓	No
5. Hopkins			✓	Yes
6. Sittee River			✓	No
7. Riversdale			✓	No
8. Seine Bight			✓	Yes
9. Placencia			✓	No

4.2 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN PROJECT AREA

4.2.1 The Garifuna People

Belize's population is a mixture of various ethnicities and cultures each with its own unique history. The largest ethnic groups include the Mestizo, Kriol, Maya, Garifuna and Mennonite. The

Mestizos are the largest group now making up approximately 50% of the national population. Indigenous groups namely the Maya and Garifuna make up 10% and 4.6% respectively.

Dangriga, Seine Bight and Hopkins are the four communities within the project area of impact that are considered indigenous. While indigenous peoples in Belize, the Garifuna in this instance can be found in every district of the country, they are concentrated mostly in the southern districts of Stann Creek and Toledo. The Garifuna are historically fishermen and farmers and while there have changes to these roles many still practice this age-old seafaring tradition today. Their communities are mostly found along the coast of southern Belize.

The Garifuna settled along the coast of southern Belize around the early 19th century. After resisting British and French colonialism, they were exiled from the Caribbean island of St. Vincent to Roatan, Honduras in 1797. From there they made their way up to the Caribbean coast of Guatemala and on to Belize. Their arrival to Belize is commemorated every year on the 19th of November, which is celebrated as a national holiday. The Garifuna trace their origins to the Carib and Arawak peoples of the Lesser Antilles and Africans who had escaped from slavery. The Garifuna people developed a strong maritime culture and lived chiefly from fishing and agriculture. Their communities can now be found along the coasts of Honduras, Guatemala and Belize.

The British colonial rulers in 1858 created a land tenure system that supported a system of indirect rule among indigenous Maya and Garifuna peoples. This system allowed them to govern their own settlements through their village *Alcaldes*. The *Alcalde* system was adopted from the Spanish system of local government. While the system has lasted within Maya communities to this day, this system is no longer practiced in Garifuna communities. Like most villages in Belize today, Garifuna communities are integrated into the Village Council system legally mandated by the Government of Belize under the Village Council Act. Each Garifuna village, like all the other villages in Belize, has a Chairperson assisted by the seven Councillors. Garifuna urban centres are managed by legally mandated Town Councils. Decisions regarding the communities are usually done in open community meetings facilitated by the village council.

While the Garifuna continue to recreate their culture over time, there are some longstanding traditional practices that continue to play a significant role within their communities. Garifuna women especially, even with their changing roles, remain prominent in traditional practices. Rituals for the dead, for example, often have female organizers. Ceremonies such as *dugu* and even other celebrations often have women as dancers, singers and trancers. The *buyei* or healer/spirit-medium positions are held by men.

Given their history and ancestry, Garifuna spirituality is a mixture of Christianity (Catholicism), African and indigenous beliefs. Belief in and respect for the ancestors is at the very core of their faith. They believe that the departed ancestors mediate between the individual and the external world. The religious system thus implies certain responsibilities and obligations between the living and deceased. Food and drink should occasionally be laid out for the ancestors. With the incorporation of Catholicism in Garifuna spirituality, church masses are also requested as well. The ancestors often appear to make these requests to the individual in dreams. If the individual

satisfies the ancestors then all will be well with him. If not, there will be disruption and this is usually manifested by the form of persistent and recurring misfortune (*lamiselu*) or illness that cannot be cured by conventional medical practices.

To perform the *dugu* ritual a spiritual leader, the *buyei*, leads the contact of a family with the deceased. As part of the preparations for the spiritual gathering, healing, drumming, dancing, and a feast of seafood, meat and cassava bread is prepared. The *dugu* ceremony is not an open public event but engages large sections of the community through familial relations. It is not uncommon to have relatives from the other countries come in to participate. The ceremony generally lasts for about a week.

A death in the community also means that community members will be engaged in celebrating the life of the deceased through a customary practice called the *beluria*. Beluria consists of prayers for nine nights after the death occurred. While there is a solemn aspect that involves prayers and hymns, there is a part of ritual that actively celebrates the life of the deceased through storytelling, games, and eating and drinking. It is a sort of a farewell celebration to please the spirit of the departed.

Renowned Garifuna scholar, Roy Cayetano in an essay, *Songs and Rituals as a Key to Understanding Garifuna Personality* (1974) indicates that a strong sense of egalitarianism pervades in Garifuna communities. He goes on to explain how a strong orientation of the individual towards the kin-group creates a strong social pressure is brought on by a collective expectation. This strong sense of individual obligation to one's community is still experienced today.

In 2001, the creative culture of the Garifuna people was recognized internationally when UNESCO proclaimed their language, dance and music as a masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity.

4.3 GENERAL POPULATION

4.3.1 Rural and Urban Communities

As identified above, the non-indigenous communities to be affected by the project are mostly rural communities and a limited number of fishers from urban areas. Rural communities present a unique case given that some are almost entirely dependent on fishing and marine resources for their livelihoods. Table 2 below presents the population of all project-affected rural communities including those of the Garifuna.

Table 2: Population of Coastal Fishing Villages

Rural Communities	Population	Male	Female	Number of Households	Average Household Size
1. Consejo	217	112	105	59	3.7

2. Copper Bank	366	192	174	72	5.1
3. Chunox	1,058	516	542	175	6.0
4. Sarteneja	1,591	807	784	336	4.7
5. Hopkins	994	483	511	197	5.0
6. Sittee River	312	175	137	83	3.8
7. Riversdale	685	407	278	196	3.5
8. Placencia	458	237	221	138	3.3
Total	5681	2,929	2,752	1,256	4.4

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2012

As shown in Table 2 above, the largest rural communities within the footprint of the project are Sarteneja, Placencia, Chunox and Hopkins. These communities represent different ethnic groups namely, Mestizo, Creole and Garifuna. It should be noted however that the Placencia and Hopkins are more heavily engaged in tourism compared to Sarteneja and Chunox.

The urban centres that are covered with the scope of the project are shown in Table 3 below. The proportion of fishers from urban centres is small relative to the size of the actual populations of those areas. Fishermen from Belize City tend to be unaffiliated with cooperatives and associations and come mainly from the Southside. They generally come from larger families compared to other families in Belize City even though they are slightly below the average (3.5) for the areas under consideration. Considering the national average household size of 3.9 persons, household size is larger in the north (Corozal) followed closely by the south (Dangriga).

Table 3: Areas of Residence for Urban Fishers

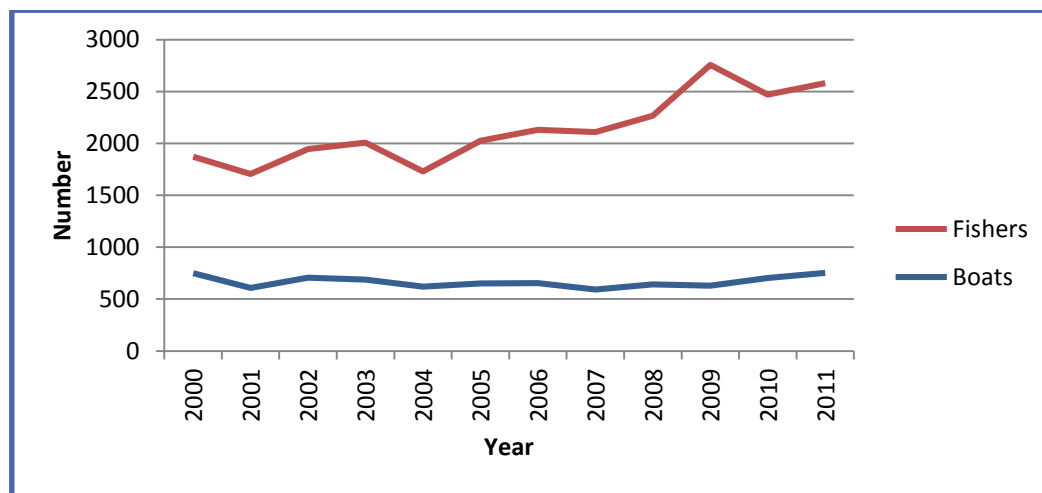
Urban Areas	Population	Male	Female	Number of Households	Average Household Size
1. Corozal Town	9901	4,752	5,149	2,699	3.7
2. Belize City	16,116 (Northside)	7,620	8,496	5,078	3.2
	37,416 (Southside)	18,266	19,150	11,078	3.4
3. Dangriga	9,096	4,410	4,686	2,562	3.6
Total	72,529	35,048	37,481	21,417	3.5

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2012

4.3.2 Number of Fishers

Since the year 2004 there has been a steady increase in the number of fishers who are issued with fishing licenses. In 2011, there were 2,582 licensed fishermen, which show an increase of 4.5% compared to 2010. Seven hundred and fifty two boat licenses were also issued in 2011 with approximately 1,377 registered fishing vessels currently involved in the fishing industry.

Figure 2: Fishers and Boat Licenses Issued



Source: Fisheries Department, 2012

4.4 ETHNIC COMPOSITION AND SOCIAL GROUPING

4.4.1 Northern Mestizos

The northern fishing communities of Consejo, Corozal Town, Copper Bank, Chunox and Sarteneja are all located within the Corozal District and share a common history, culture and ethnicity. These communities are inhabited predominantly by the Mestizos. Mestizos, who are descendants of indigenous Maya and European Spaniards, first came into northern Belize from southern Yucatan, Mexico as refugees of the Caste War of Yucatán in 1848. The Caste War was a Maya uprising against the Spaniards but it eventually became a war against the Mestizos. The Mestizos, mixed Spanish and Maya (indigenous), were allies of the Spaniards, and thus became targets of attacks by the Mayas. They came over to Belize to escape from these attacks and eventually settled in most of northern Belize.

Even though Belizean Mestizos of the north share Mayan ancestry they do not as an ethnic group self-identify as indigenous peoples. Most consider themselves Mestizos and do not claim indigenous status. While a few speak the Maya Yucatec language, the predominant language spoken is Spanish.

4.4.2 Urban and Rural Creoles

Belize City is the country's largest population center in the country with a population of approximately 57,169 (according to official figures¹). It also serves as the main commercial hub for the country. Given that it was Belize's capital city until the capital was moved inland to Belmopan in 1970, it represents a historical center as well. The population of Belize City, like that of other large cities is mixed, with all of Belize's ethnic and cultural groups represented. Nonetheless, Belize City remains a predominantly Creole area. Belizean Creoles are afro-descendants of British colonialists and African slaves. Creoles continue to represent a significant segment of Belize's population second only to Mestizos, who are the largest group, in terms of population size. Belize City is also considered the commercial capital of the country as most of the countries trading companies, banking and light manufacturing industries are headquartered there.

Sittee River, Riversdale and Placencia are ethnically similar and are considered old fishing villages. Sittee River and Riversdale continues to be small fishing village with only a few families residing there. They are, however, now experiencing growth based primarily on tourism developments in the area. Placencia on the other hand is now a major tourism destination and is becoming more ethnically diverse with more people of different backgrounds moving into the area in search of employment and other opportunities in the tourism sector. There is a large expatriate community residing in Placencia Peninsula mostly from North America and Europe who are involved in tourism development as well.

4.5 CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

4.5.1 Cultural Events²

Rural communities in Belize and especially indigenous communities have strong cultural practices that distinguish them either as groups or in general. These traditions and practices are important aspects of community life as they help to shape and perpetuate their collective identities. While some cultural events tend to be geared towards tourism they are nonetheless locally produced, authentic and provide a platform for cultural expression.

Placencia, to augment its tourism product, holds the annual Placencia Lobster Fest, and the Placencia Peninsula Arts Festival. These events bring together large groups of locals and visitors to showcase local cuisine, art and entertainment. Sarteneja in the north holds an Annual Easter Regatta, which is a boat race. The boats used in the race are handcrafted wooden sailing boats and is a showcase of boating skills as well as boat craftsmanship. Additional entertainment activities are being routinely added to these events. These events such as the Easter Regatta attracts large turnouts of people especially from the northern districts. Hopkins and Seine Bight also hold annual village days to celebrate their indigenous culture and community. Hopkins Day for example, which usually happens in July every year, takes place over three days and attracts

¹ The actual population may actually be higher.

² Specific dates for cultural events can be obtained from BTB as they often change from time to time.

visitors from all over the country. Hopkins Day has been running for the past twelve years and is supported by the Belize Tourism Board (BTB).

For the Garifuna communities, celebrations such as Garifuna Settlement Day are highly significant. Since 1943, November 19th has been a public holiday in the Stann Creek and Toledo districts. From 1977 it has been a country-wide public and bank holiday. It entails a week-long celebration of arts, culture and entertainment. Dangriga and Hopkins are some of the main areas where this is held in Belize.

4.5.2 Fishing Practices

Over time fishing communities and families have developed unique practices to support their engagement in fishing. For instance, not every licensed fisherman owns a boat. There is a traditional practice within fishing communities where a boat owner/captain allows other fishermen on his boat in order to fish. These arrangements allow for those fishers to pay the boat captain either in cash or in kind (fish) for the privilege. Similarly, fishermen often trade goods when they are out at sea among one another. For instance if a fisherman is running out of ice he may trade his gas for ice and vice-versa. This form of reciprocity is important to the lifestyle of being a fisherman. The engagement of family members to support fishing activities is also very common. At times entire families join the fishermen on fishing expeditions. At other times, they are involved in preparing the fishermen for their fishing trips by preparing gear and food.

Garifuna fishers especially, have also developed informal rules for fishing. For example, it is prohibited to pull out the trap of other fishermen and small fish should be returned to the waters so they could be feed for the bigger ones. Fishermen also feel that catch should be cleaned away from where it was caught in order not to drive other fish away. These do's and don'ts also include acknowledging one's first catch for the day is special. To do this, one should scrape a few of its scales into the sea to guarantee catching more. One should also not contaminate the waters by throwing back dead fish. It scares the fish away. Some fishermen further believe that they attract sharks, which in turn chase away the fish normally caught.

4.5.3 Gender Dimensions

Fishing in coastal communities is generally dominated by men as they are the ones who go out to sea, sometimes for extended periods of time. Most of the members of fishing associations and cooperatives are also men. There are only a few female fishers who hold a fisher's license. During the community consultations though, it became apparent that traditional fishing is a responsibility that is shared by both men and women even though this is done through distinct roles.

Before men go out, the women are the ones who usually prepare them for the extended trips at sea. In some communities, women wake up early in the morning, usually around 3:00 am to not only prepare food but also to assist in preparing the fishing gears and supplies enough to last over several days. This entails packing ice in large coolers, clothing, raincoats, and GPS equipment. It is only after men leave for their fishing trip that the women begin to prepare food for their children and prepare them for school.

The women also prepare themselves early in the morning to head out to the market to sell fish products at the local markets. While most of the products, especially conch and lobster are sold to the large cooperatives, fin fish is usually sold at the local market. In some instances, women also go out into the community to sell fish. Fish that is not sold is shared among family members and friends.

Another key role women have is the management of the family income. This is especially critical when the fishermen need to return to sea immediately during open season. Women are the ones most often left with the responsibility to purchase household needs such as groceries, pay utility bills, pay down debts and pay for the cost of health care and educational services for the children.

There are instances however where women accompany the men on fishing trips. On such trips, women engage in every aspect of fishing from picking up conch to boat handling. They however maintain their gender roles as they are often expected to prepare meals on fishing expeditions as well. It is apparent that women play an important and meaningful role in the fishing practices of coastal communities.

4.6 SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF FISHERS

4.6.1 Level of Education

Most fishermen are educated formally only to the primary level though there are some who have completed secondary school as well. Only a minuscule segment has attained tertiary level education. Interestingly, those who have no formal education at all are also very few. Nonetheless, the low level of education at times has proven to be an impediment for organization and proper representation of their interests to policy-related bodies. While limited in formal education, fishermen are very knowledgeable about the numerous aspects of fishing from reading the tides and weather, identifying rich fishing grounds, marine navigation to basic mechanics.

4.6.2 Income and Employment

Northern fishing villages are the ones most heavily dependent on fishing. A few fishers from that area supplement their fishing income by engaging in small scale agriculture and tourism activities such as tour guiding. Similarly, fishermen originating from Belize City are very dependent on fishing alone. On the other hand, in Dangriga, Hopkins and Placencia there are traditional fishermen who engage in fishing only as their means of livelihood however most engage in tourism related activities along with their fishing activities. During the tourist season (November to April) they are involved in tour guiding, working at resorts or other like activities. They return to fishing once the season is over. Similarly, there are others who, leave tourism temporarily to take advantage of the open season for conch and lobster. There are others who add farming to their livelihood strategies and also take up other forms of employment in the construction industry or as wage labourers at nearby resorts. The same is true for fishermen from Placencia. According to a regional study done to determine levels of poverty in CARICOM fishing communities, about half of the income of Belizean fishing families are actually derived from sources other than fishing.

The income of fishermen generally ranges from US\$1,000 to US\$15,000 per annum. Some studies have shown that the average income per capita is around US\$8,000 per annum. Belize City fishers generally earn on the higher end of the scale while Sarteneja fishermen capture a major share of fishing income which is a reflection of their dominance of the industry.

4.6.3 Poverty and Housing

Nationally, poverty in rural areas is higher compared to urban areas and fishing communities are not so different. The Country Poverty Assessment of 2010 shows that 55.3% of the rural population and 27.9% of the urban population are living below the poverty line. The fishing villages generally fit this characteristic. According to a CARICOM regional study, about 45% of fishing households in Belize are poor or vulnerable to poverty. Of all the fishing villages that make up the study area, Sarteneja is relatively the most developed while also being the most dependent on fishing given their dominance of Belize's commercial fishery. On the other hand, Hopkins and Placencia seem to be more diversified from fishing. The urban areas of Corozal Town and Dangriga are fairly well developed compared to the villages though there is a certain degree of poverty present. The majority of fishermen own the houses they live in though not all are constructed of durable materials. Some fishermen own ferro-concrete homes while the homes of others are made of wood with zinc roofing. The quality of the houses range from having modern amenities to those that are very basic. In Sarteneja most of the homes are made of concrete with zinc roofing and also have modern amenities including electricity and potable running water.

4.7 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

4.7.1 Basic Needs in Local Communities

Most of the fishing communities under consideration for this project have fair access to basic services to meet their basic needs. However given the disperse and isolated characteristics of rural communities in general they often do not have access to immediate health care services and usually need to travel outside of their communities to access them. Where available, the quality of services is often lacking. Seeking health care is often a time consuming process and sometimes public facilities do not have basic medications.

Access to potable running water in Belize in general is high. Rural communities have access to potable water through established community water systems that have good storage and distribution capacity. Even where there is a water system, some community members continue to use small private wells or vats to collect rain water. Proper sanitation on the other hand is not as high as the potable water coverage as rural communities do not have sewage systems. There are households that have site septic systems around their homes and use an indoor toilet while others use outdoor pit latrines. A recent study by MDG Score Card released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Belize shows there is need to improve sanitation in both urban and rural areas. The share of the national population with improved sanitation facilities was approximately 70% in 2008.

All of the communities under consideration have access to primary education facilities and services. Each village has a primary school at the minimum while Chunox and Sarteneja have secondary schools within or near the village. Urban areas have several primary schools, secondary schools and even tertiary level educational facilities.

According to the most recent Population Census (2010), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) remains the most popular source of cooking fuel in Belize. In rural areas this is supplemented by the use of charcoal/firewood.

5 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

5.1 PROJECT CONCEPT STAGE

All major Government and non-governmental stakeholders were consulted during the development of the original concept document from February to November 2011. The first set of consultations with key stakeholders held between February 21-24, 2011, arrived at the main conclusion that Belize must manage its natural resources in a more sustainable manner and strengthen resilience to climate shocks in order to achieve its medium- and long-term development goals. To this end, the MCCAP was jointly conceived by the Government of Belize and non-governmental partners including local communities. The concept and its design was well received by high level Government officials, and resulted in a request to the World Bank for further assistance in developing the project. Further consultations on the content and scope of the concept document were held with Government officials on April 15th, 2011, between May 9th and 13th, 2011, and between November 14th and 18th, 2011. Consensus was achieved with regard to the main objective and expected outcomes of the project, as well as the approximate budget allocations for the three components. The concept document was approved by the Adaptation Fund Board in March 23, 2012.

5.2 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT STAGE

A plan for stakeholder consultation, including consultation with the relevant fishing communities and other agencies was prepared. Based on the plan, several meetings and site visits were held between September 20 and December 14, 2012. All the key stakeholders had an opportunity to comment on and provide feedback on the three components of the project. Community consultations and focus group sessions, and one-on-one meetings were conducted. The consultation process involved:

- a) An Inception Meeting with the Fisheries Department, Protected Areas Conservation Trust, and The Nature Conservancy to review the status of the concept paper and prepare key points for project finalization.
- b) Field visits to Chunox, Sarteneja, Belize City, Belmopan, Dangriga, and Hopkins to consult with the main affected communities and major project beneficiaries including obtaining feedback on the three components and expected outcomes of the project;
- c) One-on-one meetings with all key Governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to obtain feedback on the three components and expected outcomes of the project, including:
 - Liaising with the Protected Areas Conservation Trust to discuss fiduciary management arrangements;
 - Meeting with the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development; the CEO of the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development; and the Fisheries Administrator to discuss implementation arrangements and project components; and
 - Review meeting with key Governmental stakeholders for concurrence with the draft project proposal. These stakeholders were given a draft of the main project proposal

sections (e.g., narrative of the three project Components, Results Framework, Budget, Implementation Arrangements) so that comments could be collected and addressed in the final draft of the project proposal.

Community consultations were held with potentially-affected fishing communities in all three fishing regions. Both men and women were involved in the consultations at the community level. Women were specifically targeted in Sarteneja, the largest fishing village, and in Dangriga and Hopkins, both being indigenous communities. It was determined that a rapid participatory appraisal approach would be used with the women as most of the literature available only addressed male participation in the fishing industry. This lack of information of female representation in the literature and general community consultations meant that simply presenting project information to the women would not be sufficient to gain the women's input while at the same time trying to identifying potential impacts on them. The participatory nature of the process allowed women to share their views on the project and contribute to the identification of potential impacts that could arise from the project from their perspective.

The consultations held with fishing communities in general confirmed the project components and helped to further define the specific activities to be undertaken. Community engagements were done in the spirit of the free, prior and informed consultation principles for both indigenous and non-indigenous communities alike. During the consultation with the fishers of Dangriga and Hopkins (the largest groups of indigenous fishers) they were provided with all the information on the project details including the budget and it was done prior to finalizing the full design of the project. The consultation meetings in Hopkins and Dangriga were public meetings open to all fishers. In Hopkins, the local NGO SEA assisted with organizing the meeting and it was held at night; a time convenient to the villagers. In Dangriga, the Dangriga Fishermen Association (DFA) assisted with arranging the meeting and identifying a convenient venue. They also helped to decide the time of the meeting based on their own schedules. There were no inducements, considerations or duress of any kind for their participation as the sessions were held in a transparent environment. Invitation to the consultations sessions were done by the leadership of the respective groups as is customary.

During the consultations the project components and proposed activities were outlined and feedback on suitability and relevance to needs was solicited. Communities were also asked to indicate whether the project conflicted with or complemented other projects currently being done or which had been recently completed. Concerns of the community were documented even if they did not relate directly to the project subject areas. As a result of consultations, key feedback was received that formed the basis for the elaboration of the project activities. A list of organizations and community members consulted are shown in the Annex section of this document.

5.3 RESULTS OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

5.3.1 Confirmation and Validation of Project Design

In general, there was support for the project from the local communities. The recognition of the importance of improving the management of marine resources among fishers was

validated during community consultations. There were no opposition or objection to the project and its main components among the indigenous communities visited. Community members clearly recognize the need for conservation of marine resources as it not only benefits the environment but also secures their livelihoods and long term wellbeing. More so for the Garifuna communities, fishing and the sea play an important role in their culture and traditions. They were keen on ensuring that livelihoods support came along with the management measures and are willing to engage with the project once it started. It also became clear that a mobilization aspect to the project was necessary to ensure a strong uptake of project resources given the fact that fishers have a low level of education and without support would not necessarily be able to navigate formal requirements. Indigenous fishers also provided advice about potential challenges of alternative livelihoods such as organizing community members and enabling market access for local products. Based on this input, the project was designed to ensure that community mobilization is the first step in the development of alternative livelihood activities and a marketing expert will be engaged in the development of new enterprises. Perhaps due to the fact that since the SWCMR is already in place, indigenous fishers did not raise any objections to the project. Instead they expressed that they would like the SWCMR be properly defined and marked so they know exactly where the MPA actually lies.

Aside from the community consultations, it should be noted that indigenous Garifuna fishers are members of fishing cooperatives that make up the BFCA and they too were consulted on the project in a similar fashion with them being given full information on the project.

Consultations will continue throughout the life of the project and will involve the key Government authorities, as well as the key non-governmental organizations, and fishermen associations and cooperatives such as the SACD, TASA, SFA, DFA, Northern Fishermen Producers Society Limited, National Fishermen Producers Society Limited, Placencia Fishermen Producers Society Limited, and the BFF. The future consultation efforts will build on the methodologies used in the project development phase and extend to include: on-going evaluation of interventions, periodic meetings with stakeholder groups (e.g. local fishermen's cooperatives, and associations), and feedback mechanisms established via the Project Steering Committee and the Project Implementation Unit such as the grievance redress mechanism. These types of consultations are considered critical to the process of adaptive management and ownership-building necessary for successful project implementation among all stakeholders.

5.3.2 Concerns and Issues Raised By Fishers

During consultations visits and meetings, fishers, including women, expressed several concerns and constraints which they feel are affecting their livelihood and the development of their industry and communities. Some of the points raised are as follows:

- a) Fishers are disorganized at the community level and this makes it difficult for them to achieve common goals or address common problems. Some attempts at organizing community groups have not been successful. This more apparent in some communities than others;

- b) Fishers who work in the Turneffe Atoll area, and are worried that the area would be off-limits to them now that the atoll has been declared a marine reserve. They are also concerned that only fishers and not tourism operators will be displaced as a result of the creation of the reserve;
- c) Agriculture was once the mainstay of some of the northern villages but many farmers are turning to fishing as an alternative economic activity as their economic situation worsens especially due to the decline in the sugar industry;
- d) Fishers expressed that it does seem quite easy for “foreigners” (meaning Guatemalans and Hondurans) to become fishermen in Belize, as they are facilitated with fishing permits. This is one of the main reasons why there are too many fishers who are competing with the traditional fishers;
- e) Women shared that on some occasions, their husbands would return empty-handed from fishing trips and they have to find ways to sustain their families with the income from the previous catch. They also share that they feel men think that the women cannot do what they do during fishing trips when in fact that is not the case;
- f) The management plan for CBWS allows for traditional fishing to continue, although the National Parks System Act (NPSA) currently prohibits resource extraction within wildlife sanctuaries;
- g) Some fishers see too much risk to their investments in the conch and lobster industry if they concentrate on economic diversification;
- h) Regulators and management bodies should make decisions after prior consultation with the Belize Fishermen’s Cooperatives Association (BFCA) and Belize Federation of Fishers (BFF). They feel that the Fisheries Department does not communicate sufficiently with them and do not feel that their opinions are respected. Also, there is need for clarity in terms of MPA boundaries and zoning as there have been inconsistencies.
- i) BFCA wants the decades-long rights and privileges of the traditional fishers to be respected;
- j) Fishers are concerned that the number of active fishers is increasing;
- k) Fishers share that as it is they have to go farther and stay out longer in order to bring in a reasonable catch. This greatly increases expenses especially fuel;
- l) Fishers are inclined to support the marine reserves if their management are much improved and if vigilance by the Fisheries Department would improve and be sustained;
- m) Fishers would like greater inclusion in planning and implementation of zoning within marine protected areas and would like to see a consistent application of the fishing regulations.

5.3.3 Validation of Social Safeguards

In addition to the consultations held on the project design with the communities, stakeholders were also invited to participate in validating the social safeguard instruments namely the Process Framework and the Culturally Appropriate Participation Plan. This consultation workshop was held on 26th September, 2014. The session had the participation of the Fisheries Department, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, PACT, MPA co-managers,

representatives of fishermen, representatives of indigenous peoples and other key implementing partners. The report of this meeting is annexed to this document.

6 POTENTIAL SOCIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The aspects of the MMCAP project that is considered here are those actions that have a direct bearing on the livelihoods and wellbeing of fishing communities. Social impacts in this report are generally defined as the changes that occur in communities or to individuals as a result of externally-induced change. The assessment therefore is meant to assess in advance potential social repercussions that may arise from the implementation of the project. This is critical as protected areas often modify ways of seeing, understanding and reproducing the world within local communities. Protected areas also create a discursive and material separation between people and their surroundings and these undoubtedly have social implications. The impacts considered here are anticipated at the individual, household, and community levels for all groups within the project impact area.

6.1 PROJECT ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED

Direct impacts on community livelihoods are expected to result from the implementation of activities under Component 1 given that restrictions will be imposed in order to expand, secure and enforce the marine protected areas and replenishment (no-take) zones in the target areas. This component is aimed at programmatically mainstreaming specific climate change adaptation measures in the on-going efforts for the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems. The activities of Component 1 are as follows:

Component 1 - Improving the protection regime of marine and coastal ecosystems

- a) *Realignment and expansion of management areas and replenishment zones within selected MPAs - Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve, Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, and the South Water Caye Marine Reserve).*
- b) *Enhancing the management, including enforcement, of the selected MPAs.*
- c) *Strengthening the legal framework for the MPA network and the management of the coastal zone.*

Even though Component 2 and 3 are not imposing restrictions on use of marine resources they may have social implications and as such specific activities under these two components are considered in the impact assessment. These components are:

Component 2 – Support for viable and sustainable alternative livelihoods for affected users of the reef in the areas impacted by project activities

- a) *Promotion of viable and sustainable alternative livelihoods for affected users of the reef through sub-grants mechanism.*

Component 3 – Raising Awareness, building of local capacity and dissemination of information

- a) *Build leadership, organizational and management capacity*

6.2 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF AFFECTED FISHERS

There are approximately 2,500 licensed fishers in Belize however, given the types of activities under the project and the three MPAs targeted, it is estimated that approximately 495 fishers will be affected by the project. The actual number of fishers who may be displaced due to the re-zoning of MPA boundaries and the expansion of RZs are expected to be smaller given the fact that all MPAs have already implemented management and enforcement regimes to varying degrees. This will be further determined during project implementation after consultations have been carried out in regards to re-zoning and RZ expansions within the targeted MPAs. The number of fishers using the CBWS is very low compared to the others even though it is near some of Belize's largest fishing communities. This reality is due to the fact that fishers from those communities fish outside of the area in other fishing regions.

Table 4: Estimated Number of Project Affected Fishers

Target MPA	Estimated Number of Fishers Using MPA
1. Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary	35
2. Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve	200
3. South Water Caye Marine Reserve	260
Total	495

Source: SACD, Belize Fisheries Department and TASA

6.3 SOCIAL VARIABLES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The adverse impacts of the project are considered from the five areas of social life and broken further down to their accompanying variables. The impacts are anticipatory in nature as it is not possible to predict actual changes or effects. The following table lists recommended measures to avoid and mitigate potential adverse project impacts³ and includes measures to address them. The restoration of livelihoods is central to the measures being proposed. Also, expected impacts and proposed measures apply to both indigenous and non-indigenous communities.

³ See Social Assessment document for both potential positive and adverse impacts identified.

Area 1 - Population Characteristics

Variable	Potential Adverse Impact	Level of Impact	Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Measures
1. Population Change	i. No effect anticipated.	None	No action necessary.
2. Ethnic and Racial Distribution	i. No effect anticipated.	None	No action necessary.
3. Influx/Outflows of temporary workers	i. Temporary outflow of workers - Individuals from fishing families who lose access to traditional fishing areas may experience financial difficulties and consequently move out of their communities to obtain employment and pursue other means of livelihoods. This could mean both male and female workers moving out to take up jobs in nearby urban areas or in other sectors.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Experience with community members working outside of fishing communities is common. b. The actual number of community members who will need to move out in search of work as a consequence of the project is expected to be low. c. Preference will be given to affected individuals when hiring labour for the project. d. Affected individuals will be supported with training and alternative livelihood opportunities within the community.
4. Seasonal Residents/Visitors	i. Increase in visitors puts pressure on local resources (environment) and impact on local culture. An increase in visitors that come through local communities to use local attractions will likely put pressure on local resources from	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. On average, fishing communities from north to south already experience a moderate level of tourism and as such adjustments are already being undertaken by community members to accommodate visitors. b. Community infrastructure in local communities will be sufficiently able to absorb resource-demand from any increase in visitors that result from project

	<p>food and water to transportation. Added challenges could include increase in garbage produced to solid waste disposal. In order to meet the demands of visitors, communities may also end up changing local cultural practices including modifying their diets. This could be relying more on packaged and processed goods which could lead to a decline in nutrition. For this to occur however there has to be a large influx of visitors and will likely occur over a longer period of time.</p>		<p>implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Larger communities such as Corozal Town, Sarteneja, Belize City, Dangriga, Hopkins, Seine Bight and Placencia already experience moderate to high levels of tourism and are able to absorb changes introduced by the project in terms of increased visitation. d. Communities are relatively well connected to the mainstream market economy and consumption of non-traditional products already occurs. A change in diet is already being experienced. e. Increase in tourism cannot be attributed solely to the project. As a matter of fact, given the focus of the project on MPAs, this would be difficult to assume as effects would be indirect. f. Project alternative livelihood activities will encourage the production and consumption of healthy food products where possible.
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Area 2 - Individual and Household

Variable	Potential Adverse Impact	Level of Impact	Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Measures
1. Residential Stability	i. No effect anticipated. While there may be some individuals who leave to seek employment elsewhere, it is unlikely that the	None	No action necessary.

	project will alter residences and create significant residential instability.		
2. Displacement and Relocation	<p>i. Loss of choice fishing grounds. During consultations, fishers expressed that they use areas in the MPAs for their current fishing activities due to the high volume of fish there. Enforcing the boundaries and enhanced vigilance in the MPAs will mean that they will have to move out and will therefore see them lose out on their former fishing grounds.</p>	Moderate	<p>a. The MPAs (CBWS, SWCMR, TAMR) targeted by the project are pre-existing therefore fishers have an ongoing engagement with MPA measures and regulations.</p> <p>b. Fishers who do use areas within the MPAs do not depend entirely on those fishing areas therefore they will be left with some options in the event some restrictions are experienced.</p> <p>c. Any re-zoning of MPAs and RZs will be done in prior consultation with fishers who use the designated areas.</p> <p>d. The implementation of zoning and enforcement of any new regulations will be preceded by communications to fishers and their representatives of the impending change allowing them time to make adjustments.</p> <p>e. Restriction of fishing will occur mainly in RZs therefore some fishing will continue to be allowed within other sections of MPAs. This accommodation will allow some fishing grounds to continue to be used without the displacement of fishers.</p>
	<p>ii. Congestion in alternative fishing grounds. Fishermen displaced by the establishment and enforcement of MPAs and RZs will have to identify new fishing areas/ground which will</p>	Moderate	<p>a. The Fisheries Department and other management bodies will increase patrols to known fishing areas to monitor harvests as well as fishing expeditions in those areas. The most migratory fishermen are those from the north, mainly Sarteneja, Chunox and Copper</p>

	lead to both congestion and competition with other fishers for those same areas which can potentially lead to conflicts among users. Fishermen generally use identified fishing grounds and as such will not necessarily be open to others joining them especially those from other districts.		Bank and are most likely to create any congestion. Congestion is also more likely to occur during harvest seasons for conch and lobster so such congestion is expected to be temporary.
	iii. Conflicts arising from enforcement of MPA regulations. Not every fisher will cooperate with the management agencies in enforcing the laws and regulations governing MPAs and NTZs. There are those who will challenge the rangers' authority for instance. If this is not handled properly it can encourage others to engage in a similar fashion, solidify a convergence of opposition and such conflicts can escalate to a broad group and become intractable.	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. It will be ensured that law enforcement officers and patrol rangers are properly trained in dealing with those who violate the regulations in place. b. There will be targeted awareness campaigns regarding the importance of MPAs as well as the existence of rules regarding the use and management of marine resources. This will be done through community meetings, mass media and representative organizations such as fisher associations and cooperatives. c. The Fisheries Department and other management agencies will respond in a timely manner to complaints and concerns from community members to avoid having issues fester and escalate into widespread discontent and conflict. A grievance mechanism will be put in place.
3. Income and Livelihood	i. Loss of income due to displacement and reduction in fish catch. The main concern of fishers have regarding protected	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The expansion, realignment, and rezoning of MPAs and RZs will begin with a dialogue with fishing communities as partners and stakeholders in the management of marine resources. This will be done

	<p>areas is the effect they may have on their livelihoods and potentially negative effects on their income. This reaction is strong especially in those communities where dependence on fishing is high. There is the potential for this to occur for direct users and it can also have an indirect effect on the employment of those employed by the fishing cooperatives. Because MPAs and managed areas limit access by fishers' loss of income may occur through reduced catch.</p>		<p>according to an established process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. There is already a reduction in fishing activities being experienced in communities such as Hopkins, Seine Bight and Placencia mainly due to the increase in tourism activities. Nonetheless, fishing is kept as a safety net and for subsistence purposes. c. Those who are displaced and negatively affected will be provided with alternative livelihood opportunities. These activities will be based on existing skills and social resources and training where such skills are lacking will be provided. While fishing is their mainstay, fishers often pursue diverse other livelihood strategies that include participating in tourism, construction, and agricultural activities. d. Incubation support for new enterprises to develop within local communities and for participants to gain the requisite business skills will be provided. e. Marketing support in order to ensure constant revenue and income streams can be achieved from newly established enterprises will be provided.
	<p>ii. Households become more vulnerable through reduced income leading to reduced expenditures on basic needs. If fishers experience a reduced catch due to management restrictions, it can translate into reduced income. Because fishing</p>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Start-up capital for initial investments for those wishing to engage in alternative livelihood activities will be provided to ensure that they do not lose current access to basic needs. (See Process Framework for details of these measures). b. Training in the development of marketable skills that fishers can deploy to earn a living or supplement

	<p>is their primary source of income and with many fishermen dependent on it to sustain their families, it can be expected that reduced income will mean reduced purchasing power and the greatest social effect will be experienced when expenditures on basic needs such as nutrition, health care and education are reduced.</p>		<p>fishing activities will be provided.</p> <p>c. Employment opportunities within project implementation will be provided where fishers can be hired as rangers, boat captains or to support coral repopulation efforts.</p>
	<p>iii. Marginalization of disadvantaged fishers and vulnerable groups. Not all fishermen have boats and the requisite assets for fishing. If the negative effect is high in terms of the catch and income, larger fishers who currently allow other fishers on their boat to fish may cease the practice in order to shore up their income. This means that already disadvantaged fishers and their families could be further marginalized and may be the first and primary ones to experience a shock to their income and move away from fishing.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>a. Women and youth will be involved in the development of alternative livelihood activities.</p> <p>b. Indigenous communities will be involved and their culture will be reinforced where possible when developing new ventures for diversification and alternative livelihoods.</p> <p>c. Vulnerable groups such as poorer fishermen, women, elderly, and youth will be included in alternative livelihood initiatives by actively seeking to engage them.</p>
	<p>iv. Increase in travel time and costs. A fisherman's decision of</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>a. Areas that are open to fishing within MPAs will be openly discussed with fishers. This is in order to</p>

	<p>where to fish depends on many factors, including time of year, targeted species, expected time at sea, expected catch rates, transportation costs, search costs, landing prices, and weather-related events. Two major costs are the time spent searching for fish and the associated fuel costs. In order to maintain economies of scale some fishers may end up investing in greater capacity to offset increases in costs. Displaced fishermen will likely spend more time searching for fish especially if the “spill-over” effects of RZs are negligible.</p>		<p>minimize the need to travel over longer distances.</p> <p>b. Biological benefits of MPAs and closed seasons have proven to be significant from prior experience and licensed fishers will have the opportunity to harvest commercial species such as conch and lobster during open seasons.</p>
4. Land and other Properties	<p>i. Marginalization of poorer households. Almost in parallel to wealthier families it is possible that those families who do not own such properties can be further marginalized as their lack of holdings may prevent them from participation or benefitting from new economic opportunities. This could exacerbate existing marginalization and inequalities within fishing communities.</p>	Moderate	<p>a. Support will be provided especially in building up key livelihood assets as poorer households are usually most vulnerable due to their limited assets (individually & household), limited marketable skills and limited social safety nets.</p> <p>b. Poorer households will be engaged directly and the project will not assume that they will receive relevant information on project support indirectly.</p> <p>c. Every effort will be made to ensure that lack of capital and assets does not prevent affected users from participating in the project. (See Process Framework for details of sub-grants mechanism).</p>

5. Traditional Use Areas	<p>i. Loss of access to traditional fishing grounds. Many fishermen are young however most fishing households have been into fishing for generations especially indigenous communities. It is possible that fishers in general may lose access to traditional fishing areas through the realignment and establishment of MPAs and RZs. Fishing is banned entirely in RZs.</p>	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The targeted MPA (SWCMR) used mainly by the indigenous groups is pre-existing and therefore they have an ongoing engagement with MPA regulations. b. Fishers who do use areas within the SWCMR do not depend entirely on those fishing areas therefore they are left with some options. c. Any re-zoning of MPAs and RZs and enforcement of any new regulations will be done in prior consultation with fishers from indigenous and non-indigenous communities who use the planned designated areas. Updated management plans will only be approved if there were full and effective participation of communities including free, prior and informed consultations. d. The implementation of zoning will be preceded by communications to fishers and their representatives of the impending change allowing them time to make adjustments. e. Absolute restriction of fishing will occur only in RZs Fishing will continue to be allowed within other sections of MPAs as appropriate. This accommodation will allow some fishing grounds to continue to be used without displacement of fishers. f. Where displacement does indeed occur, support for culturally appropriate alternative livelihoods will be provided. (See Process Framework for details)
6. Gender Relations	<p>i. Increase time burden on participating fishers and their families. Participating in projects</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. It will be ensured that project related activities take place at a time when community members are available and where it does not create unnecessary

	<p>takes up a lot of time from community members in order to attend meetings for instance. Time is the most available resource rural households have however it also has a very high opportunity cost. Being involved in projects such as alternative livelihoods often take time away from other livelihood activities or other important social activities that help to maintain a sense of community.</p>		<p>disruption to their daily lives. Appropriate times will be discussed with relevant communities.</p> <p>b. The time demands of participating in project related activities will be clearly communicated. What times are more convenient to enhance their involvement will be clarified. Participants will be advised that their own agency and self-determination will help to guarantee success especially of alternative livelihood activities.</p> <p>c. It will be ensured that activities and agenda items are relevant and actually meets their needs. Community members are more likely to engage and respond where they feel that they are gaining from the process.</p>
	<p>ii. Increase work burden for women. While it is important to encourage the participation of women in livelihood projects it is equally important to recognize that women already do a lot of work within the household. While they do not often work outside the home, this should not be interpreted to mean that they have a lot of time to put towards project activities. The participation of women in project related activities could increase their work burden in addition to the various roles they play within the household and community.</p>	Moderate	<p>a. The availability of women simply because they do not “work” outside the home and that they have a lot of time to spare will not be assumed. Their input as to the best time and method for them to participate in project activities will be sought.</p> <p>b. Other household members will be made aware of the demands being placed on women by their participation in project activities. Opportunities and challenges of women’s participation will be openly discussed with men and spouses.</p>
	iii. Intra-household relationships	Moderate	<p>a. Information on all components of the project will be</p>

	<p>strained. Where the effects of expanding and enforcing of MPAs and RZs are felt at the individual level, such as reduced catch or increasing the need to identify new fishing grounds, this could increase stress reaction. This in turn could strain interpersonal relationships especially among spouses as they try to address declining resources to the household. Being displaced or spending time developing livelihood activities may mean males spending more time onshore for longer periods. Similarly, where projects have tangible empowerment benefits for women, this could disturb existing power relationships between men and women with the outcome being negative for women. The increasing negotiating power of women as a consequence of economic empowerment could generate negative reactions from men who are accustomed to traditional ways of doing things. The chances of this occurring are greater in rural settings where women's roles as</p>		<p>shared not just with male fishers but also to women and spouses as well. The involvement of women will be considered a key part of the dialogue with fishing communities.</p> <p>b. Where women become involved with income generating activities men will be made aware of the opportunities and challenges this presents in terms of managing the household and the roles women traditionally play. Only by openly discussing potential challenges can potential problems be minimized if not avoided.</p> <p>c. Evaluation of project and subprojects will consider the participation of both men and women in projects and how it has affected their various roles.</p>
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	domestics could see significant shifts.		
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Area 3 - Lifestyle and Wellbeing

Variable	Potential Adverse Impact	Level of Impact	Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Measures
1. Acquaintanceship and Interpersonal Networks	i. Interpersonal relationships strained. There are existing power relationships and power struggles within local communities due to internal differences based on social, economic or political variables. Perceptions of bias and inequality, real or not, could be exacerbated if a sense of partiality in the distribution of project benefits is felt by community members. Already, some community members feel that the same community members or families continue to benefit more from outside resources. A further tension between individuals and families can be experienced especially during activities related to the development of alternative livelihoods. The same experience	Low	<p>a. Project implementers will do all that is possible to avoid the perception of bias when dealing with individuals and households in local communities. This will be done by ensuring that all project related meetings are held at public places that do not restrict participation.</p> <p>b. Project implementers will communicate clearly the criteria for participating in project related activities and endeavour to be transparent in the selection of participants and in the distribution of any benefits that accrue from the project.</p> <p>c. As is commonly practiced by MPA management agencies, project staff members will be drawn from local communities as much as possible. Local persons have local knowledge of community settings and can minimize interpersonal conflicts regarding enforcement.</p> <p>d. Support will be provided for community members to organize, plan and participate in project activities. This includes assisting them to meet project</p>

	can be felt during the enforcement of MPA and RZ regulations as rangers who act as enforcers are often from the very same communities where the violators are from.		requirements where necessary as technical language and procedures may be intimidating. Participation by affected persons will be non-competitive.
	<p>ii. Increase in inequality due to elite capture. It is possible that community members who are more versed in relating to project activities either through their position or capacity can take full advantage of the resources and opportunities provided by the project to the detriment of the least capable and least organized. This could skew the distribution of benefits in one direction and further reinforce or widen the gap between the elite and the poorer members of the community. This could be between fishermen and those engaged in mainstream tourism or even between different members of fishing communities. It could also be as a result of poorer community members' failure to absorb available project resources due to a lack of capacity. All this could result in the effective exclusion of already marginalized groups such as</p>	Low	<p>a. Clear criteria for participation and approval of project resources and benefits will be established. The criteria will be communicated as broadly as possible.</p> <p>b. The trap of expediency will be avoided when working with community members. Those who should be the primary beneficiaries are often “invisible” and “voiceless.” Proper analysis and engagement of stakeholders will be done at the community level.</p> <p>c. Support will be provided for community members to organize, plan and participate in project activities. This includes assisting them to meet project requirements where necessary as technical language and procedures may be intimidating. Participation by affected persons will be non-competitive.</p>

	poorer community members, elderly, youth and women.		
2. Risk, Safety and Security	<p>i. Increased occupational risks. It should be recognized that fishing is a dangerous occupation and certain types of regulations can increase associated occupational risks. Closing a near-shore area, for instance, could force fishermen to venture out to more distant waters. Operating further offshore will increase the time it would take to return to shore, placing fishermen at greater risks from storms and piracy. These risks could be exacerbated if inshore fishermen, who are displaced by the MPA, do not have the right gear and vessels for more distant fishing expeditions. The combination of inadequate vessels and lack of experience of the displaced fishermen “forced” to operate in new, riskier environments poses the potential for greater occupational risks. It could also mean higher costs from increases in search and rescue missions by the Belize Coast Guard and local authorities.</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Representative organizations of fishers will be encouraged to discuss occupational risks and to report any apparent increase of incidents to the Project Management Unit and Fisheries Department immediately. b. Project implementers will invite the Belize Coast Guard to share project information and discuss occupational risks for fishers. c. Fishers will be engaged in open discussions on where fishing may occur within existing MPAs.

3. Psycho-social wellbeing	<p>i. Loss of independence and traditional way of life. Fishermen, by the nature of their occupation enjoy a high degree of independence, through the flexibility in how they use their time, which contributes to their way of life. This could be lost if they become involved in livelihood activities that are too restrictive in how they use their time. Their way of life also reinforces a certain way of seeing and relating to their environment. The introduction of MPAs and RZs is likely to create discursive and material changes into how their environment and surrounding is understood. They could translate the changes as offensive to their way of life and resist them.</p>	Low	<p>a. Given that the MPAs targeted under the project are pre-existing, it is unlikely that the project will directly cause the loss of a traditional way of life. Even with the existing MPAs and fishing regulations, fishing communities have been able to pursue their way of life and its evolution.</p> <p>b. The diverse livelihoods strategies of fishers will be supported. Fishing communities have been managing a dual role by participating both in fishing and tourism sectors. A new way of life is actually emerging where their independence is maintained through selective involvement in both sectors without losing some aspects of fishing lifestyle.</p> <p>c. Project implementers will notify communities of the schedule regarding the expansion and realignment of MPAs and RZs before the changes are actually made. This will alert the fishers to the timing of the changes coming and allow them to make necessary adjustments. Communicating the change will include sharing information but more importantly includes direct consultation with fishers for their input. This will allow them the opportunity to present their concerns, fears and interests and have them addressed immediately.</p>
	<p>ii. Increase in stress reaction, anxiety and concern over wellbeing. At the individual level there could be possible psychosocial effects in reaction to the changes. Changes in livelihoods are significant</p>	Moderate	<p>a. The degree of changes that will be introduced by the project will be discussed with fishing households in regards to fishing areas and MPAs as well as the support being provided to address changes in livelihood activities.</p>

	<p>enough to produce stress, anxiety and concern for wellbeing especially if a fisher has many dependents and fishing is the main source of household income. Attempting to transition to an alternative livelihood or new fishing grounds could also produce the same effect especially if the fisher has been engaged in this single livelihood strategy for most of his life.</p>		
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Area 4 - Political and Institutional Resources

Variable	Potential Adverse Impact	Level of Impact	Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Measures
1. Trust in political and social institutions	<p>i. Reinforce negative attitudes towards the project and marine conservation. Many fishers feel and believe that MPAs are meant to “get them out of the sea” and to promote only tourism. The enforcement of MPAs can reinforce this negative attitude among fishers especially if they are personally affected and sense a huge loss to their income without due</p>	Moderate	<p>a. Information on the project will be properly communicated to fishing communities in a timely manner.</p> <p>b. There will be constantly communication on the purpose of MPAs and RZs and tangible benefits where possible will be demonstrated.</p> <p>c. Environmental awareness activities on various topics including impacts of climate change will be carried targeting fishers and other stakeholders. Supportive and influential fishers will be engaged in such awareness activities.</p>

	consideration from the project. This could also happen if there is poor communication and consultation of fishers in regards to the changes being made and if enforcement is harsh and unjustifiable.		
	<p>ii. Increase in poaching activities. If there is a high rate of non-compliance with laws and regulations then this is likely to translate into a high rate of poaching and illegal activities within MPAs. This could further distance the project from the local users and as such have a negative effect on the expected outcomes of the project. It could also mean that high number fishers could be processed for infractions and non-compliance. This would not serve the project or marine conservation well.</p>		<p>a. A system of graduated sanctions against those who violate the MPA and RZ regulations or engage in poaching will be implemented. For instance, during the first three months of the project, rangers of fishery office may issue warnings for minor infractions or those that do not involve critical species in the targeted MPAs.</p> <p>b. Rules and sanctions will be applied consistently without bias among fishers. Patrols and presence in key areas will be increased at the same time to indicate the implementation of changes.</p> <p>c. There will be improved enforcement activities in MPAs and such interventions will only be carried out by appropriately trained personnel including fisheries officers and rangers.</p>
	<p>iii. Diminished trust in political institutions and government. Failure to have proper stakeholder representation in the revisions of laws and regulations can result in the exclusion of</p>		<p>a. It is recognized that while a significant number of fishers support the establishment of MPAs and RZs, there are some who are opposed to it for one reason or another. To avoid the discontent fishers are regarded as key stakeholders in the management of the marine resources and they will be consulted according to the</p>

	<p>some. This is especially crucial to fishers who make up a significant stakeholder community. The exclusion experienced by the fishers will diminish their trust in political institutions and in government overall. This will also likely harden existing perceptions towards the authorities that they simply impose regulations without seeking input and feedback from fishers.</p>		<p>Culturally Appropriate Participation Plan.</p> <p>b. Project implementers will include fishers' input in key decisions regarding MPAs and RZs in an open and systematic fashion. This will be approached through a sense of partnership. Responses to concerns and feedback will be provided promptly.</p>
<p>2. Distribution of Power and Authority</p>	<p>i. Perception of bias towards special interests in tourism and ecotourism reinforced. In expressing their perception of MPAs, fishers often mention that MPAs often serves the interest of the tourism sector more than it benefits them. This is even more so for those MPAs that have tourist resorts established and operating within them. Given that eco-tourism may be regarded as more eco-friendly, the MPAs may end up serving those interests to the detriment of fishers and their livelihoods. Also, given that fishers are poorly organized and not well resourced as compared to tourism operators, it is possible</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>a. Regulations governing MPAs and RZs should be applied consistently across all stakeholders and sectors.</p> <p>b. Project implementers will avoid the perception of bias towards any stakeholder and will instead encourage dialogue between fishers and tourism operators to identify common interests and address potential concerns.</p> <p>c. Project implementers will not downplay fishers concern regarding the environmental impacts of tourism but will address them as appropriate.</p> <p>d. The organizational representation of fishers will be supported in order for them to become equal participants in the dialogue over marine resources conservation.</p>

	that tourism interests can be advanced at the political level with much more ease.		
	<p>ii. Detention and arrest of illegal users. The non-compliance of fishers and other users can result in arrests, detention and possible penalties being laid against them by the judicial system. Being arrested, charged and convicted could have negative social consequences for fishers and their households, the least being having a clean police record of conviction. Where having a clean police is valued socially, any change in this could result in creating stigma against certain members of the community who have had a run in with the authorities. This could lead to them being ostracized.</p>	Low	<p>a. Rules and regulations and any revision to them including penalties will be communicated consistently and broadly in fishing communities. Fair warning will be given to community members.</p> <p>b. Rules and regulations will be applied consistently to deter would-be violators.</p> <p>c. Grievances brought forward by community members will be responded to promptly.</p>
	<p>iii. Process-capture by elite and special interests. Revision and drafting of legislation is a highly technical legal process. This could lead to a situation where only those who are able to engage can get their needs and interests represented and respected. Given</p>	Moderate	<p>a. Fishers and their organizations will be given adequate information, time and opportunity to participate in discussions regarding the revisions of legislation. Where necessary, they will be allowed to consult with their own advisors before being asked to make a necessary decision.</p> <p>b. Information communicated to fishers will be in a user-</p>

	<p>the limited organizational capacity of fishers and their generally low level of education, the process can become intimidating and end up failing to capture their interests. If there is process-capture by the elite and special interests then this could have long lasting effects on fishers especially since legislations are not often revised regularly.</p>		<p>friendly format and in a language they understand. (See Section 7 for Consultation Protocol)</p>
<p>4. Leadership Capability and Characteristics</p>	<p>i. Increase in responsibilities. Exercising authority and power ultimately ends up meaning taking on new responsibilities. This includes both representation and decision-making. This could occur both at the local and national level. The increases in responsibilities often have a cost associated with them including material resources and time. This could negatively affect individuals (including their families) who take up such tasks or the lack of resources could prevent them from fully exercising their new power and authority.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>a. Existing fisher's organizations will be expected to represent the interest of fishers as it relates to the project.</p> <p>b. Material support will be provided for the participation of fisher leaders in discussion of activities under the project. This will help to defray expenses as well as enable their participation in the process.</p> <p>c. Representative organizations will be encouraged to discuss opportunities and challenges of leadership internally before appointments in relation to the project are made.</p>

Area 5 - Community Resources

Variable	Potential Adverse Impact	Level of Impact	Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Measures
1. Cultural, Historical and Archaeological	i. No effect anticipated. It is unlikely that the project will disturb any cultural, historical or archaeological sites.	None	No action necessary. The Environmental Management Framework addresses this in the event it occurs. See accompanying document.
2. Community Infrastructure	i. No effect anticipated. The implementation of the project is not dependent on any one community infrastructure.	None	No action necessary.
3. Fishery Resources	i. Resistance to new MPAs. While it appears that a good number of fishers support the establishment of MPAs (they refer to them as hatchery/nursery areas), there are those who will be opposed to them for their own reasons including potential loss of livelihoods. This is likely to occur among those fishers who have recently started fishing especially in northern Belize. This is primarily due to the fact that they have had minimal engagement with management regimes and agencies. This does	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The MPAs (CBWS, SWCMR, TAMR) targeted by the project are pre-existing therefore fishers have an ongoing engagement with MPA regulations. b. Fishers who do use areas within the MPAs do not depend entirely on those fishing areas therefore they are left with some options. c. Any re-zoning of MPAs and RZs will be done in prior consultation with fishers who use the planned designated areas. d. The implementation of zoning and enforcement of any new regulations will be preceded by communications to fishers and their representatives of the impending change allowing them time to make adjustments.

	not mean however that resistance is confined to the north. If fishers sense that preferential treatment is being given to some users (especially those from the tourism sector) they are likely to resist the management regimes.		e. Restriction of fishing will occur mainly in RZs therefore some fishing will continue to be allowed within other sections of MPAs. This accommodation will allow some fishing grounds to continue to be used without displacement of fishers.
	Diminished stake for fishers in marine resources and its conservation. The establishment and enforcement of MPAs and NTZs are usually based on scientific evidence and once these are established the local ecological knowledge of fishers could be devalued and even ignored. Having an arms-length relationship between the management of MPAs and fishers could end up diminishing the stake of fishers in the management and conservation of the marine resources.	Low	<p>a. Project implementers will seek fishers' input in key decisions regarding MPAs and RZs in an open and systematic fashion. This will be approached through a sense of partnership. Responses to concerns and feedback will be provided promptly.</p> <p>b. Success of MPAs will be determined not only on biological performance but also how well they respond to socio-economic needs.</p>

7 CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION PROTOCOL

It is specifically recognized that the identities and cultures of Indigenous Peoples are inextricably linked to the lands on which they live and the natural resources on which they depend. These distinct circumstances expose Indigenous Peoples to different types of risks and levels of impacts from development projects, including loss of identity, culture, and customary livelihoods, as well as exposure to disease.

In considering the objectives, approach and potential impacts of the project, it was decided that the consultation protocol be expanded to include and consider non-indigenous communities as the safeguard principles apply to them as well. This protocol is to ensure that indigenous peoples and fishing communities impacted by the project will have an opportunity to provide their views and feedback in a culturally appropriate manner during project implementation as well as ensure access to appropriate project benefits.

7.1 CONSULTATION PRINCIPLES

The principles of this protocol conforms to the World Bank's Operational Policy 4.10 which requires an engagement of affected persons in a process of free, prior, and informed consultation. Free, prior and informed consultation is defined as follows:

- **Free** – the engagement should be free of coercion, corruption, interference and external pressures. Community members should have the opportunity to participate without any form of discrimination.
- **Prior** – the engagement should begin early during the design phase and prior to the execution of project activities. Schedule of engagement should be mutually agreed in advance.
- **Informed** – information used in consultation should be timely, sufficient, accessible and should cover the potential impacts of the project whether positive or adverse.
- **Good Faith Consultation** - the consultation process is to be carried through in good faith, is meaningful and that it meets the conditions set out by the consultation principles, and established steps must be complied with.

A further critical consideration is that any such consultations must be carried out in a manner that is gender and culturally appropriate. Culturally appropriate includes ensuring that information is provided in the appropriate language, traditional decision-making processes are respected and seek to maximize community input into the process regardless of who they are.

7.2 ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES

7.2.1 Initiating Contact with Communities

Local communities have established systems of leadership. Often this is established through the Village Councils which is a local governance system mandated by Belizean law. Considerations will also be given to other forms established by the affected groups such as their Cooperative

and Fishing Associations. Nonetheless, the leaders in these positions will be approached first and any arrangements for meetings will be done through them. Further specific steps to initiate contact with local communities will be as follows:

- a) Formal and recognized leaders of communities and representative organizations will be identified and requests for meetings will be made through them.
- b) When making request, a rationale for the meeting will be provided and the importance of having their participation will be explained. Community leaders get meeting requests all the time and so this will help them to distinguish the purpose of calling project related meetings. If leaders are clear on why the meeting should be held, it helps to motivate them to call on others to attend.
- c) The notice of meeting will be made at least 1 calendar week prior to date of the meeting.

7.2.2 Provision of Information

The affected communities will be provided with all relevant information about the project activities in a culturally appropriate manner at each stage of its implementation. The most important element regarding the format and medium of delivering information is based on an appreciation of the characteristics of the target community. The following will be observed:

- The information will be concise and technical terminology used in project concept and other documentation will be simplified.
- The most appropriate language used. In northern Belize it is expected that oral presentations will be done in Spanish and translators must be made available during all sessions as necessary. In the affected Garifuna communities, given their level of use of English, presentations need not be done in Garifuna. However if community members would prefer expressing themselves in Garifuna then this will be accommodated.
- The sessions will be participatory in nature and will use formats that addresses various learning styles and generally accepted adult learning principles.
- The information will be delivered in an objective format as is possible.

7.2.3 Meeting Logistics

Given that the communities to be consulted are fishing communities the following logistical considerations will be observed in order to maximize participation:

- Meetings will be held on the most appropriate time of the day. If the consultations are being done during fishing seasons it is likely that fishermen will not be available during the day or during the week. The community leaders' guidance on when is the best time to hold meetings will be followed.
- Appropriate venues for meetings will be identified beforehand. The locations of the meetings will be the most suitable and most neutral. Locations in the communities that are associated with special interests groups will be avoided if such selection may deter some from attending. The location selected will also allow for maximum participation from those who attend. Usually a community center provides the most suitable location in coastal communities.

7.2.4 Community Decision-making Process

Usually, decision making in rural communities or small organizations is done by consensus. While some decisions can be made immediately, this very seldom occurs. Unless it is a matter that community leaders feel that they can take, decisions will often be deferred in order for them to think through the matter and engage their community members or general memberships before coming to a conclusion. In these cases, the community's process of decision making will be respected in the following way:

- If communities decide they wish to consult their membership before giving a final perspective on the various aspects of the project, they will be allowed a reasonable amount of time for a response to be given. They will allow them to set a reasonable date on which a response can be expected.
- Follow up meetings will be scheduled as necessary and a point of contact will be established with.
- Time for community members present at meetings to discuss the topics among themselves without interference from the facilitators will be given. Usually a general consensus emerges from these discussions.
- Reasonable delays in getting a response are expected if the topics being discussed are being shared with them for the first time.
- In all instances follow up will be done with established points of contact.

7.2.5 Cultural Traditions and Practices

Rural communities in Belize and especially indigenous communities have strong cultural practices that distinguish them either individually or as a collective. It is recognized that these traditions and practices are important aspects of community life as they help to shape and perpetuate their collective identities and as such will be respected.

One of the main ways indigenous people and rural communities manifest their culture is through community gatherings and celebrations. These events normally engage the entire community and as such focus on other activities are often deferred. For the consultations to ensure maximum participation while respecting their culture the following will be taken into consideration:

- For the Garifuna communities, celebrations such as the 19th of November (Garifuna Settlement Day) are highly significant and will be respected. There will be no consultation activities arranged around this time.
- Similarly, the *dugu* ceremony which is done periodically in Garifuna communities, while not a public event, engages large sections of the community through familial relations. This will be respected and consultation activities will not be carried out during this time. The *dugu* ceremony is a healing ritual to appease ancestral spirits through a celebration and a feast. It generally lasts for about a week.
- A death in a Garifuna community also means that community members will be engaged in celebrating the life of the deceased according to local customs. No consultations or project activities will be arranged during this time.

- Other communities such as Placencia and Sarteneja have events and festivals, such as the Placencia Lobster Fest and Sarteneja Easter Regatta, which occur only in respective communities. Consultations meetings will be planned taking these events into account.

7.2.6 Gender Considerations

The majority of the traditional fishers are men. However since this project seeks diversification of livelihoods, there will also be a focus on other members of the household. Some effects on women will be indirect. Some project activities may be directly focused on women sub-project activities in various ways and as such will require their participation. In order to support women' participation in the project, the following points will be considered:

- Meetings will be held separately with women to ensure their participation as necessary;
- Visits to the home to conduct interviews or surveys to reach women who are not able to attend a community meeting will be conducted;
- It will be ensured that meeting venues consider the needs and social role of women;
- Meetings will be held at a time that is most convenient to women participants;
- The most appropriate language will be used in meetings.
- Women will be given the opportunity to participate in alternative livelihoods sub-projects as they are a critical part of the fishing household.

8 LIVELIHOODS RESTORATION AND FACILITATION

The overall aim of the restorative and mitigation measures is to compensate for and diversify the livelihoods of the affected users of the reef and MPAs. The Project will support the development of community-based business ventures that can leverage the opportunity cost of fishing and provide alternative livelihood opportunities for affected fishers. The process of developing these ventures and alternative livelihood strategies will be participatory and be underlined by equity and community driven decision-making. The business ventures will be developed through a guided process as each venture will have a business plan to support the development of products and services all the way through to distribution and service delivery.

The process to achieve this will naturally be starting with mobilizing affected community members and their households to ensure that they have the space and opportunity to properly consider the options available to them. Because the alternative livelihoods component of the project is taking a community-based approach, the affected persons within their respective communities will have access to project resources on equal, fair and inclusive terms. The community mobilization aspect will provide the extra support needed by community members (indigenous and non-indigenous) to be able to effectively participate by supporting their engagement and planning activities. There are no distinctive barriers to entry identified for indigenous fishers relative to non-indigenous fishers in relation to their full participation in the livelihoods component of the project. Mitigation measures being taken to address the livelihoods of both indigenous and non-indigenous communities must be for the long term in order for them to have a restorative effect. The activities to carry out the mitigating measures are outlined below.

8.1 COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Affected community members will be supported to mobilize themselves in order to identify viable livelihoods activities in a participatory manner. The approach will help to ensure that there is equity in the process and that all affected users including vulnerable groups, such as women, elderly and indigenous peoples, have the opportunity to become involved in and benefit from alternative livelihoods assistance being provided by the project. Taking this approach will acknowledge culturally appropriate decision-making patterns while supporting small fishing communities to develop their capacity to assess their own needs, and design community level actions and solutions in the future. This process will be facilitated by a community development expert engaged by the project. The project will assist community members to mobilize themselves through:

- a) **Community Needs Assessments** - Initial meetings will be held to create an awareness of the goals of the project in terms of climate change adaptation and to discuss the opportunities for the development of alternative livelihoods for affected users. This will be followed by needs assessment workshops to facilitate the direct engagement of community members, including women, in devising and developing ideas for potential alternative livelihoods activities. This process will assist community members to map out their own resources and assets, identify and diagnose constraints to local social and economic development from household to community level, and identify required management and technical skills. The main outputs of this process will be the: a) establishment of a common vision on how to pursue alternative livelihood strategies, b) active engagement of community members to ensure buy-in for the sub-projects, c) gender

empowerment by ensuring a process that seeks the input of both men and women and d) the identification of potential business ventures and investment opportunities. These will then be prioritized based on viability and other collectively established criteria.

- b) Participatory Subproject Planning Workshops** - The second step in the participatory planning process will be the further development of the prioritized subproject ideas and potential opportunities and the completion and submission of the sub-project proposal to the PIU. This process will establish subproject goals and objectives, identify the main activities and inputs, identify the target beneficiaries and develop a preliminary budget. In-kind contribution will be required from sub-project beneficiaries to ensure commitment. The sub-project proposal will then be submitted to the Project Implementation Unit for consideration and approval through an established process.
- c) Development of Business Plans** – Business plans will be developed by community members with the support of a specialist once a technical evaluation of the subproject proposal submitted has been done by the PIU. Development of business plans involves providing technical assistance to subproject proponents in order to get their alternative livelihoods ventures off the ground. Included in this process will be identification of information on resources and raw materials to be used as inputs, organizational plan, operating plan, financial plan, and marketing plan. The business plan is essential in various aspects: a) to commercialize the production; b) to rationalize the management structure; c) to develop an efficient operation; d) establish roles and responsibilities for participating members; e) to understand the risks and have a plan to deal with them; f) to identify their niche and explore new markets; and g) to inform potential investors and attract additional investment into the production.
- d) Business and Marketing Support** - The project will emphasize on assistance in marketing for each approved business plan. A marketing expert will assist in the identification and development of the potential niche markets, development of marketing materials, advising on packing and product and service quality, and identification of potential business partners/distributors where possible. Alternative livelihoods activities will be undertaken at scale in order to ensure maximum returns and benefits for the communities and the environment. The marketing expert will also ensure that each business venture is registered with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE) in order to ensure continuous business support over the long term.

8.2 SKILLS TRAINING TO FACILITATE TRANSITION TO ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS

In addition to supporting the development of business ventures, the project will provide individual training necessary to build the skills of members of affected households including fishers, their spouses and dependents. This is to assist community members to transition to alternative livelihoods, based on training needs identified during the community mobilization phase. This will be done by focusing on skill sets that supports small business development and individual marketable skills. The types of training to be provided include:

- a) **Training in business development** - A training program will be established for beneficiaries under the project. This is to ensure that such participants develop the skills necessary to sustain and maintain the development of business ventures and transition to alternative livelihoods. This includes training in financial literacy, business management, production, marketing, quality control and financial management. Beneficiaries whose subprojects are already under implementation or have an approved sub-project are eligible to participate in the training activities. These training activities will be coordinated by the PIU.
- b) **Training in marketable skills** - Training support for the attainment of marketable and employable skills for individuals will also be done in order to support those who wish to transition to full time employment in other sectors or self-employment. Training in marketable individual skills sets will be mainly in the areas of: a) mari-culture; b) eco-tourism, d) agriculture and c) vocational education. These four areas were selected to complement the current social, human and physical assets of the local communities. Many are already engaged in livelihood strategies in these areas as they attempt to diversify their own livelihoods and as such the project will be building on existing knowledge and experience and will not necessarily have to recreate existing social capital. A diagnostic study of fishing communities in CARICOM concluded that in Belize almost of half of the income of fishing families are derived from activities other than fishing⁴. Additionally, the areas selected are tied to the largest and fastest growing sector of the Belizean economy namely tourism. The training under this section is aimed at supporting: a) independently-operated profitable enterprises, and b) employment or self-employment for individuals. For training in mari-culture, the project will collaborate directly with the Fisheries Department. Some of the training under eco-tourism in areas such as tour guiding, will be carried out in collaboration with the Belize Tourism Board's Training Unit. Local vocational training centres such as the Institute for Technical and Vocational Education (ITVET) will be asked to assist in providing training for vocational activities and also assist in job placements for trainees as they are capable of providing customized training programs.

8.3 SUB-GRANTS MECHANISM FOR COMMUNITY-BASED BUSINESS VENTURES

Sustainable community-based business ventures designed under the project will be supported by a sub-grants mechanism. This mechanism will provide financial resources as initial capital investment to support the start-up of the identified business ventures. The operation of the sub-grants mechanism will be according to an established process. Given the fact that livelihoods and displacement support is a restorative and mitigating measure, the grants will not be competitive but rather targeted to those adversely affected by the management regimes put in place for the MPAs. In the event there are left-over funds, then such funds will be used to support non-affected fishing families but the same process must be followed. The following outlines the structure of the mechanism and how it is expected to operate:

⁴Diagnostic Study to Determine Poverty Levels in CARICOM Fishing Communities, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), 2012.

8.3.1 Types of Grants

Two types of grants will be provided under the project. The first type is small grants up to US\$25,000, and the second, regular grants, will range from over US\$25,000 to US\$50,000. Because the grants are focused on developing alternative livelihoods they will be considered initial investments to support business ventures. Grants up to US\$25,000 will be required to be completed within a 12-month period. Regular grants will be required to be completed within an 18 month period. Follow up phases of sub-project are allowed but require technical appraisal and approval of the PSC.

8.3.2 Eligible Applicants

Affected users (including their households) of the reef and the targeted MPAs, through their representative organizations such as fishing associations or cooperatives, will be eligible to submit subproject proposals for funding. Consequently, the provision of funding will not be competitive but based on the eligibility of the beneficiaries. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) currently co-managing the selected MPAs are also eligible to apply on behalf of affected users. These NGOs and CBOs are expected to be involved in assisting the communities in the targeted areas to plan and carry out alternative livelihoods and diversification activities. This type of engagement will provide an efficient, multi-sectoral delivery mechanism for community-based interventions in the conservation of the reef. The legal status of the project proponents will also help to ensure accountability and transparency in the management of the sub-grants.

8.3.3 Sub-projects Approval Process

Even though the process of selection of sub-projects is non-competitive, the process of approval is still expected to be rigorous as follows:

- a) Submission of Concept Paper – A completed concept paper will be submitted by project proponents on alternative livelihoods for affected users of the reef and targeted MPAs. Project staff in partnership with local organizations will assist fisher groups to complete project concept form.
- b) Screening – The concept paper will be screened by the PIU based on the eligibility criteria established.
- c) Community Mobilization and Planning - Once the project concept is cleared and considered eligible, participatory consultations and planning will be held and will be overseen by project technical staff.
- d) Technical Evaluation – Once full proposal has been received, a technical review committee which includes business experts will review the application and recommend the development of business plans, required for all regular grants of US\$50,000. Business plans for small grants will be at the discretion of the technical review committee.
- e) Development of Business Plan – A business plan will be developed for regular sub-projects and will act as a sort of feasibility study aside from being an investment plan. Development of a business plan does not guarantee approval by the Project Steering Committee.

- f) Approval – The completed application and business plan will then be forwarded to the Project Steering Committee for approval. The PSC may approve, reject or request for more information from sub-project proponents. The decision of the PSC is final.
- g) Notification of Decision – Applicants will be officially notified by the PIU on the decision of the PSC. Successful applicants will then be advanced to the implementation stage.
- h) Implementation – The sub-project will be implemented directly by proponents under the direction of the PIU. A built-in feature of the project is marketing support from the PIU. This may be from technical project staff or from external consultants hired to provide specialised marketing support. Procurement of goods and services will be according to established guidelines.
- i) Monitoring and Reporting – PIU staff will conduct field visits to sub-project sites and proponents will be required to submit periodic reports and a final report on their project.

The sub-grants mechanism will be managed by the PIU. Sub-project proposals will be submitted to the PIU and the Project Steering Committee (PSC), made up of marine conservation and social development stakeholders from various sectors will approve all subprojects. All recipients of sub-grants must be legally established entities.

8.3.4 Eligible Activities

All projects regardless of type must adhere to the eligibility criteria, which include:

1. Target beneficiaries are affected users of the reef and selected MPAs under Component 1 of the project.
2. Applicant/proponent is a representative organization and is a legal entity (Fishing association, cooperative, MPA Co-Manager).
3. Proposed activities fall under one of the following:
 - a. Fisheries diversification initiatives that capitalize on eco-friendly fishing activities such as sport fishing;
 - b. Value-adding to final fishery products through processing, introduction of standards, eco-labelling, utilizing fish parts that are currently discarded as waste;
 - c. Poly-culture of marine products; and
 - d. Community-based sustainable aquaculture, agriculture and tourism-related activities. (Sub-projects with activities having to do with fishery must demonstrate environmental sustainability, social responsibility and economic viability.)
4. Preliminary community consultation has been held.
5. Concept Paper submitted is complete.

As noted above, the scope of eligible activities recognizes that many fishermen do not wish to simply give up their livelihoods and way of life that connected to fishing. Similarly, they are likely to face greater challenges if the alternative taken up is completely different and unrelated to existing individual and community assets and resources. Also, given the importance of the economic viability of alternative livelihoods, it is strategic for them to be connected to the stronger sectors of the local economy.

8.4 EMPLOYMENT IN PROJECT ACTIVITIES

8.4.1 Employment Opportunities

There will be employment opportunities during the implementation of the project that will be used to absorb some of the displaced fishermen especially where their maritime skills meet the job requirements. One of those project activities is the repopulation of coral reefs. Interested and skilled fishers will be hired as nursery workers and research assistants to develop the farms as well as replant corals in selected areas. The other opportunity is to hire fishers as rangers in the redefined MPAs. They are already familiar with the regions and have necessary maritime and boating skills. They can be trained to become familiar with regulations enforcement.

8.4.2 Notice of Vacancies

The PIU will ensure that fishers have the opportunity to apply for open positions for which they qualify within the project. To ensure that fishers are aware of such opportunities notice for open positions will be sent to the relevant fishing associations, cooperative, or federations for them to disseminate to their membership. The same notice will also be sent out to other partners and stakeholders in the fishing sector and will be distributed as widely as possible.

8.4.3 Hiring Process

Applications from fishers and community members from project affected communities will automatically be considered. This however does not mean they will automatically be hired. The actual hiring will be according to specific procurement guidelines established for the project. The guidance here is simply to ensure that fishers and local community members are given due consideration.

8.5 GENDER AND OTHER SOCIAL FACTORS

8.5.1 Gender-sensitive Participation

Specific emphasis will be placed on gender equity, the participation of indigenous peoples and civil-society organizations in the design and implementation of the alternative livelihood activities. During the preparation of the MCCAP, local communities were consulted to determine specific activities and target communities to be supported. Women were found to play an integral role in harvesting marine resources both through their direct productive involvement and social reproductive roles. Women are involved in extraction as well as in the marketing of fish products. They are also involved in a supporting role where they prepare materials and supplies for fishing expeditions and manage the household's fishing income. Consequently, the project will ensure that women have an opportunity to participate and express their own aspirations during the identification and development of subprojects for funding. Gender related issues that affect the well-being of fishing families or inhibit the participation of women will be looked at. This is to ensure that they not only have effective participation but also gain meaningful benefits. Further recognizing the role of women, the project will encourage the spouses of fishermen to develop sub-projects and submit them for financing. Women will also be given the opportunity to participate in all training activities carried out under the project. Beyond being gender sensitive, the project will ensure that women have a role in decision-making in order to benefit directly from project resources and strengthen their structural position in a culturally sensitive manner.

8.5.2 Indigenous Peoples

Affected indigenous Garifuna communities will also be fully engaged to promote their participation in managing marine resources and in the development of alternative livelihoods that are culturally appropriate. Sub-projects that promote or preserve Garifuna culture will be considered for funding where the economic viability of the actions can be established. Some of the suggestions from indigenous communities include strengthening eco-cultural tourism including aspects of Garifuna music, traditional dress, cultural foods or the creation of cultural entertainment groups that support the economic diversification in local communities. These opportunities provide win-win situations for indigenous communities where their culture is highlighted and maintained while enhancing their household income. Lastly, the Fisheries Department will take into account formal agreements entered into between the representative organizations of the Garifuna and the Government of Belize.

8.5.3 Civil Society Organizations

The role and engagement of civil society organizations including fishers associations and conservation NGOs will be a key feature of this project both in the promotion of marine conservation as well as in the development of alternative livelihoods strategies for local communities. Local conservation organizations, cooperatives and fishing associations have continuously engaged the targeted communities therefore the project will build on those existing relationships and will avoid creating any new organizational structures within the communities unless absolutely necessary.

9 BUDGET FOR LIVELIHOODS RESTORATION AND FACILITATION

The Goal of the sustainable livelihoods component of the project is to support viable and sustainable alternative livelihoods for affected users of the reef. There are four main aspects to the restorative measures namely, a) community mobilization, b) business planning and c) skills training and d) grants mechanism. The bulk of the resources allocated here are expected to be spent in year 2 of the project when most sustainable livelihood enterprises would have been identified. The spending is spread across 5 years with the least amount being in the final year as the project should be winding down.

Goal	Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total (US\$)
Support for viable and sustainable alternative livelihoods for affected users of the reef in the areas impacted by project activities	Community Mobilization for Alternative Livelihoods						
	1. Community needs assessment workshops	23,000	19,000	19,000	9,000		70,000
	2. Participatory sub-project planning workshops	24,000	22,000	22,000	12,000		80,000
	Business planning for economic alternatives and diversification sub-projects						
	3. Development of business plans	14,000	33,000	21,000	14,000	14,000	96,000
	4. Marketing support for business ventures	15,000	36,000	23,000	15,000	15,000	104,000
	Skills training to facilitate the coastal communities' transition to alternative livelihoods						
	5. Training in business development		10,000	10,000	10,000		30,000
	6. Training in marketable skills		10,000	10,000	10,000		30,000
	Sub-grants mechanism for community-based business ventures						
	7. Sub-grants for initial capital investment to support the startup of business ventures	300,000	500,000	440,000	400,000	400,000	2,040,000
Total by year		376,000	630,000	545,000	470,000	429,000	2,450,000

10 GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM AND PROCEDURES

10.1 PURPOSE

A Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) is required by the World Bank's OP 4.12 in order to identify procedures to effectively address grievances arising from project implementation. Persons affected by the project must have an avenue where they can formally lodge their complaints and grievances and have them properly considered and addressed. A GRM can help project management significantly enhance operational efficiency in a variety of ways, including generating public awareness about the project and its objectives; deterring fraud and corruption; mitigating risk; providing project staff with practical suggestions/feedback that allows them to be more accountable, transparent, and responsive to beneficiaries; assessing the effectiveness of internal organizational processes; and increasing stakeholder involvement in the project.

It is very important that the project's management and staff recognize and value the grievance process as a means of strengthening public administration, improving public relations, and enhancing accountability and transparency. Consequently, grievance redress will be integrated into the project's core activities. This will be done by integrating grievance redress functions into project staffs' job descriptions and regularly review grievances data and trends at project management meetings.

10.2 PRINCIPLES OF GRM

The MCCAP GRM will adopt the following six core principles to enhance its effectiveness:

- a. ***Fairness:*** Grievances will be treated confidentially, assessed impartially, and handled transparently.
- b. ***Objectiveness and independence:*** The GRM will operate independently of all interested parties in order to guarantee fair, objective, and impartial treatment to each case. Officers working under the GRM will have adequate means and powers to investigate grievances (e.g., interview witnesses, access records).
- c. ***Simplicity and accessibility:*** Procedures to file grievances and seek action will be made simple enough that project beneficiaries can easily understand them. Project beneficiaries will have a range of contact options including, at a minimum, a telephone number, an e-mail address, and a postal address. The design of the GRM will be such that it is accessible to all stakeholders, irrespective of where they live, the language they speak. The GRM will not have complex processes that create confusion or anxiety (such as only accepting grievances on official-looking standard forms or through grievance boxes in government offices).
- d. ***Responsiveness and efficiency:*** The GRM will be designed to be responsive to the needs of all complainants. Accordingly, all officers handling grievances will be trained to take effective action upon, and respond quickly to, grievances and suggestions.

- e. ***Speed and proportionality:*** All grievances, simple or complex, will be addressed and resolved as quickly as possible. The action taken on the grievance or suggestion is expected to be swift, decisive, and constructive.
- f. ***Participatory and socially inclusive:*** All project-affected persons – fishers, community members, members of vulnerable groups, project implementers, civil society, and the media - are encouraged to bring grievances and comments to the attention of project authorities. Special attention is given to ensure that poor and marginalized groups, including those with special needs, are able to access the GRM.

10.3 DEFINITION AND TYPES OF GRIEVANCE

For the purpose of the project's GRM, grievance is defined as an issue, concern, problem, claim (perceived or actual) or complaint that an individual or group wants the project to address and resolve. It is understood that when community members present a grievance, they generally expect to receive one or more of the following:

- a) Acknowledgment of their problem
- b) An honest response to questions about project activities
- c) An apology
- d) Compensation
- e) Modification of the conduct that caused the grievance
- f) Some other fair remedy.

The GRM will be designed to respond to four types of complaints that are likely to arise:

- a) Comments, suggestions, or queries;
- b) Complaints relating to non-performance of project obligations;
- c) Complaints referring to violations of law and/or corruption; and
- d) Complaints against project staff or community members involved in project management.

10.4 GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL FRAMEWORK

The GRM is being established at the field level for the MMCAP where matters can be addressed immediately within the scope of the projects authority and activities. Given that the PIU will be under the MFSSD, it is expected that relevant units within the Ministry will provide support to the PIU in the implementation of the GRM. The other level of the GRM is at the national level. This includes the judicial levels where the process is more formalized and complex and includes formal litigation. The Office of the Ombudsman at the national level is able to take up issues directly related to the project.

10.4.1 Field Level

At the field level, the Project Coordinator (PC) will be appointed to officially respond to grievances raised by individuals and groups of community members. A GRM Committee made up of PSC

members and PIU staff will be established to coordinate support for the PIU and assist in addressing grievances put forward to the project. The Fisheries Department will consider appointing non-affiliated persons on the GRM committee to strengthen the objectivity of the mechanism.

Established representative organization (fishing cooperatives, fishing associations, village councils and the National Garifuna Council) may join the complaint of any community member to assist in presenting the matter to the GRM. The PC may also seek to engage these representative organizations in addressing grievances raised. Grievances can be presented orally or in writing in person or by using information and communication technology (telephone or email). Where presented orally, the PC must ensure that the grievance is documented in writing. This is further elaborated below in the procedures section below.

10.4.2 National Level

Project affected persons may seek to have their grievances addressed directly by the legal and judicial system in Belize. They may choose to go there directly if they feel that their legally guaranteed rights have been violated or if they are not satisfied with the response and resolution provided by the project GRM. In this instance, it is the community members' responsibility to take up the matter in a court of law and seek his or her own legal representation. The project will abide by the ruling of any Belizean court in regards to the matter presented and adjudicated. Grievances can be heard in lower magistrate's court or in constitutional cases; they are heard in the Supreme Court of Belize. This process is open to any community member who feels that they need to pursue this avenue.

In addition to the judicial system, the Office of the Ombudsman is also an avenue that is open for project affected persons to seek redress for grievances. The Office of the Ombudsman is established under the Ombudsman Act, Chapter 5 of the Laws of Belize. The Ombudsman is empowered to investigate complaints made by any person or body of persons who claim to have sustained injustice, injury, or abuse (including any act of discourtesy, or refusal to act, or any act motivated by discrimination based on religion, language, race, colour or creed), or who claims that an authority has been guilty of corruption or other wrongdoing. Authorities who are subject to investigation are:

- A Ministry, Department or agency of Government;
- The Belize Police Force
- A City Council or a Town Board
- Other statutory body or authority, including any company in which the Government or an agency of government owns not less than 51%.

Approaching the Ombudsman's office to register a complaint is a simple process that can initially be done orally and thereafter in writing. There is no charge for registering a complaint.

10.5 PROCEDURES FOR FIELD LEVEL GRM

- a) **Registration** - Community members can inform the PIU about concerns directly and if necessary, through third parties. Once a complaint has been received, it will be recorded in a

complaints log or data system. The log will be kept in hardcopy or electronic form. All reported grievances will be categorized, assigned priority, and routed as appropriate.

- b) **Sorting and Processing** - This step determines whether a complaint is eligible for the grievance mechanism and its seriousness and complexity. The complaint will be screened however this will not involve judging the substantive merit of the complaint. The following guide will be used to determine whether or not a complaint is eligible or not:

Eligible complaints may include those where:

- The complaint pertains to the project.
- The issues raised in the complaint fall within the scope of issues the grievance mechanism is authorized to address.
- The complainant has standing to file.

Ineligible complaints may include those where:

- The complaint is clearly not project-related.
- The nature of the issue is outside the mandate of the grievance mechanism.
- The complainant has no standing to file.
- Other project or organizational procedures are more appropriate to address the issue.

If the complaint is rejected at this stage, the complainant will be informed of the decision and the reasons for the rejection. The complainant will be given the benefit of the doubt and engaged in a conversation before a decision to reject the complaint is made as complainants often provide incomplete information. The PIU will make an effort to truly understand the grievance before responding. All complaints whether eligible or not, will be logged for reference.

When evaluating and investigating complaints the parties, issues, views, and options will be clarified:

- The parties involved will be fully identified;
- The issues and concerns raised by the complaint will be clarified;
- The views of other stakeholders, including those of project staff will be gathered;
- The complaint in terms of its seriousness (high, medium, or low) will be classified. Seriousness includes the potential to impact both the project and the community. Issues that will be considered include the gravity of the allegation, the potential impact on an individual's or a group's welfare and safety, or the public profile of the issue. A complaint's seriousness is linked to who in the project's management needs to know about it and whether the Project Steering Committee is advised immediately.

- c) **Acknowledgment and Follow Up** - When a complaint is registered, the PIU through appropriate staff will acknowledge its receipt in a correspondence that outlines the grievance process; provides contact details and, if possible, the name of the contact person who is responsible for handling the grievance. The PIU will respond acknowledging the issue within 7 working days. In responding to the complaint the PC may seek and hold a

meeting with the aggrieved party(ies). Complainants will then receive periodic updates on the status of their grievances.

- d) **Evaluating, Investigating and Taking Action** - This step involves gathering information about the grievance to determine its validity, and resolving the grievance. The merit of grievances will be judged objectively against clearly defined standards such as the Environmental and Social Safeguards, legal requirements and the Project Operations Manual. For grievances that are straightforward (such as queries and suggestions) these will be resolved quickly by contacting the complainant and providing an appropriate response. Grievances that cannot be resolved at the project level will be referred to the most competent authority.

In general, four basic approaches will be considered when evaluating what array of resolution approaches to offer. These include:

- The GRM Committee proposes a solution.
- The GRM Committee and the community decide together how best to address the issue.
- The GRM Committee and community defer to a third party to decide.
- The GRM Committee and community utilize traditional or customary practices where appropriate.

10.6 IMPLEMENTING THE GRM

The following measures will be taken to ensure that the GRM is effectively implemented.

- a) **Build Awareness of GRM** – The GRM will be presented by project staff to community members during the project inception workshop and during community consultations when planning MPA zoning restrictions. Other ways to engaged community members in implementing the GRM include the following:
- Simple, visually engaging marketing materials will be developed. These will describe the process for handling people’s concerns and the benefits that can result. The materials will also inform the local communities about where to go and who to contact if they have a complaint.
 - Formal and informal meetings in local communities will be used as the main method for building awareness about the GRM.
 - Communities will be consulted about any risks or fears they have associated with using the system. Information about what else they might need to voice a complaint and participate effectively in the mechanism will be elicited and used to update the GRM.
- b) **Train Staff on GRM** – Project staff will be educated about the GRM and its procedures. This is to ensure that staff members are able to accept complaints, or to participate in on-the-spot resolution of minor problems. The following will be considered when developing training sessions for project staff:

- Sessions will focus on why the grievance mechanism is in place, its goals, benefits, and how it operates.
- Roles and expectations of project staff (what to do if a member of the community approaches them with a grievance, how best to respond to aggrieved stakeholders and the importance of listening, remaining objective, and taking stakeholder concerns seriously).
- The constructive role of community dissent in project operations, by encouraging the view that complaints and opposition are a source of valuable information that can lead to improved operations, reduce risk, and develop a supportive relationship with the community.
- Emphasize that there will be absolutely no reprisals and the participation of community members in the GRM does not diminish their rights or entitlements to benefits from the project in any way. This information will be shared with local communities.

11 MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The M&E matrix below outlines the main components of the participation plan, identifies performance indicators, means of verification and the responsible party. The Project Coordinator is responsible for ensuring timely and regular reporting of implementation including the GRM activities. The implementation of this framework will be coordinated with the overall project M&E system.

Component of Plan	Indicators	Means of Verification	Responsible
COMPONENT 1 – FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED COMMUNITY CONSULTATION			
Objective 1.1: Communities are provided with relevant project information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of awareness raising events held No. of consultation workshops held Materials developed are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff field reports Meeting reports Project literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant Senior Project Officer Project Coordinator
Objective 1.2: Cultural traditions and practices of communities are respected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time of community meetings Community leaders involved in decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff field reports Correspondence between communities and PIU Attendance lists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant Senior Project Officer Project Coordinator
Objective 1.3: Affected communities participate in project activities including mitigating measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of consultation workshops held No. of meetings with co-managers of MPAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff field reports Meeting reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field Staff Senior Project Officer
COMPONENT 2 – MITIGATION MEASURES TO ADDRESS ADVERSE EFFECTS OF PROJECT			
Objective 2.1: Alternative livelihood subprojects for affected persons elaborated and financed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of business plans financed At least 30% of beneficiaries are female from affected households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant reports Subproject participatory evaluation reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant Senior Project Officer

Objective 2.2: Project beneficiaries have diversified livelihoods strategies and reduced dependence on traditional fishing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of affected fishers who have diversified their livelihoods ▪ At least 30% of beneficiaries are female from affected households ▪ % of project hires are former fishers from affected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subproject participatory evaluation reports ▪ Mid-term evaluation reports ▪ Final evaluation reports ▪ Approved contracts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consultant ▪ Senior Project Officer ▪ Project Coordinator
Objective 2.3: Community members are participating in developing marketable skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No. of participants in training ▪ At least 30% of beneficiaries are female 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consultant Training Reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training consultant ▪ Senior Project Officer ▪ Project Coordinator
Objective 2.4: Indigenous peoples receive appropriate assistance and benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No. of subprojects approved and implemented focused on indigenous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projects approved by PSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Senior Project Officer ▪ Project Coordinator
COMPONENT 3 – GREIVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM ESTABLISHED			
Objective 3.1: GRM Sub-Committee of PSC and PIU members established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings held every quarter ▪ Report to PSC on GRM activities submitted ▪ GRM responsibilities are incorporated into staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minutes of meetings ▪ Copies of reports submitted ▪ Staff TORs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Senior Project Officer ▪ GRM Committee
Objective 3.2: Staff and community members are aware of and are able to use the GRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training sessions with staff held ▪ GRM training at Project Inception training ▪ Community consultations held on GRM ▪ Marketing materials on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Session Agenda ▪ List of participants ▪ Staff Field Reports ▪ Literature available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Coordinator ▪ GRM Committee
Objective 3.3: GRM effectively meets the needs of affected communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of complaints/grievances registered ▪ Percentage of grievances resolved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grievance Log Form ▪ Correspondence to aggrieved parties ▪ Grievance Summary Sheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Coordinator ▪ Senior Project Officer ▪ GRM Committee ▪ Consultants

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Percentage of grievances redressed within stipulated time period ▪ Time required to resolve complaints (disaggregated by different types of grievances) ▪ Percentage of complainants satisfied with response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mid-Term M&E ▪ Final M&E 	
Objective 3.4: Results of GRM activities are publicized to ensure transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GRM reports submitted to the PSC ▪ Results of cases published in project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GRM reports ▪ Project newsletter/website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Coordinator

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13 ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 – INDIGENOUS POPULATION OF BELIZE (2010)

Indigenous People	Corozal	Orange Walk	Belize	Cayo	Stann Creek	Toledo	Total
Garifuna	235	262	3,578	975	7,518	1,417	13,985
Maya -Q'eqchi	68	72	837	1,408	1,333	13,691	17,409
Maya -Mopan	84	237	627	1,936	3,166	4,507	10,557
Maya -Yucatec	289	164	166	1,469	29	24	2,141

ANNEX 2 – ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED DURING DESIGN OF MCCAP

Organization	Affiliation
1. Belize Fishermen Cooperative Association	NGO
2. Belize Fishermen Federation	NGO
3. Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute	Statutory Board
4. Dangriga Fishermen Association	NGO
5. Environmental Research Institute (University of Belize)	Academia
6. Fisheries Department	Government
7. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	Government
8. Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development	Government
9. National Fishermen Producers Society Limited	Cooperative
10. National Protected Areas Secretariat	Government
11. Northern Fishermen Producers Society Limited	Cooperative
12. Placencia Fishermen Producers Society Limited	Cooperative
13. Protected Areas Conservation Trust	Statutory Board
14. Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development	NGO
15. Sarteneja Fishermen Association	NGO
16. The Nature Conservancy	NGO
17. Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association	NGO
18. Wildlife Conservation Society	NGO
19. Healthy Reefs Initiative	NGO
20. Belize Audubon Society	NGO

ANNEX 3 – PERSONS/STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED DURING DESIGN OF MCCAP

Chunox consultation meeting participants (27 October 2012):

- 48 fishers attended the meeting – see Photos 1 and 2 (they declined to write their names in the registration sheet)

Sarteneja focus group meeting participants (10 November 2012):

1. Vildo Tamai, Sarteneja Fishermen's Association
2. Luiz Quintanilla, Sarteneja Fishermen's Association
3. Eleazar Muñoz, Sarteneja Fishermen's Association
4. Anastasio Gongora, Sarteneja Fishermen's Association
5. Faustino Verde, Sarteneja Fishermen's Association
6. Joel Verde, Executive Director, Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development
7. Carolie Verde, President, Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development
8. Erlindo Novelo, Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development
9. Evanier Cruz, Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development
10. Timoteo Cruz, Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development
11. Zoe Walker, Wildtracks/Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development
12. Guillermo "Awi" Rodriguez, Sarteneja Village Council
13. Elmer Rodrigues, National Fishermen's Producers Association
14. Emir Cruz, Northern Fishermen's Producers Association
15. Estevan "Crispin" Solis, Northern Fishermen's Producers Association
16. Benedicto Perez, Belize Fishermen Federation
17. Carlos Cruz, Belize Fishermen Federation

Sarteneja women's focus group meeting participants (10 November 2012):

18. Ardeni Sosa
19. Eldi Sosa
20. Seleni Flores

21. Cesaria Cruz
22. Isidora Catzim
23. Joselyn Flores
24. Joaquina Tepaz
25. Sylvia Muñoz
26. Amira Rodriguez
27. Rosalina Florez
28. Yesenia Blanco

Belize Fishermen's Cooperative Association Executive Committee meeting participants (12 November 2012)

1. Pedro Alvarez, Chairman (National Fishermen's Producers Association)
2. Lowell Godfrey, Treasurer (PPCSL)
3. Ovel Leonardo, Vice Chairman (Northern Fishermen's Producers Association)
4. Ramon Carcamo, BFCA Technical Advisor
5. Nadine Nembhard, BFCA Secretary

Hopkins/Placencia consultation meeting participants (22 November 2012):

1. Justino Mendez, Outreach Director, SEA
2. Shalini Cawich, Protected Areas Director, SEA
3. Sherel Mayen, Finance Director, SEA
4. Omar Sierra, Administrative Assistant, SEA
5. Annelise Hagan, Science Director, SEA
6. Cecilia Guerrero, Outreach Officer, SEA
7. Francis Lewis, Farmer, Hopkins
8. Luterlly Westby, Tour Guide, Hopkins
9. Benedicta Duquesny, farmer, Hopkins
10. Marcello Williams, Hotelier, Hopkins
11. Rudolph Coleman, Craftsman, Hopkins
12. Gregorio Castillo, Farmer, Hopkins
13. Clarence Ventura, Fisherman, Hopkins
14. Tyron Lambert, Tour Guide, Hopkins

15. Mario Maurice Miranda, Fisherman, Hopkins
16. Clyde Martinez, Teacher/Fisherman, Hopkins
17. Albert Nuñez, Chairman, Hopkins
18. Cadle Nuñez, Fisherman, Hopkins
19. Rodney Castillo, Fisherman, Hopkins
20. Abraham Rodriguez, Tour Guide, Hopkins
21. Hubert Miranda, Village, Hopkins
22. Randolph Nuñez, Boat Captain, Hopkins
23. Alicia Eck, Glover's Reef Marine Reserve Manager, Fisheries Department, GOB
24. Deral Foreman
25. Sydney Lopez, Jr, Tour Guide/Fisherman (PPCSL), Placencia
26. Luke Nuñez, Fisherman, Hopkins
27. Marjorie Casimiro, Housewife, Hopkins
28. Clotildo Martinez, Fisherman, Hopkins
29. Phyllis Martinez, Belfuna Group, Hopkins
30. Francisco Casimiro, Belfuna Group, Hopkins
31. Noawel Nuñez, Fisherman, Hopkins
32. D.S. Martinez, Retired, Hopkins
33. Troy Nuñez, Guide, Hopkins
34. Merlene Castillo, Hopkins
35. Dioesteñes Saldana, Guide/Fisherman, Hopkins
36. Lowell Godfrey, Placencia Producers Cooperative Society Ltd (PPCSL), Placencia
37. Ian Small, Fisherman/Guide (PPCSL), Placencia
38. Kurt Godfrey, Guide/Fisherman (PPCSL), Placencia
39. Leopold Leslie, PPCSL, Placencia
40. Lennox Maximo, Fisherman, Hopkins
41. Elsa Barrow, Cook, Hopkins
42. Merla Young, Hopkins
43. Sarita Martinez, Baker, Hopkins

Consultation meeting with Dangriga Fishers Association members (22 November 2012):

1. Mark Thompson
2. Ernest Sabal
3. Michael Sabal
4. Omar Gillett
5. Ishmael Usher
6. Rue Sabal
7. Norlan Lamb
8. Akeem Norales
9. Michael Jackson
10. Ashford Velasquez
11. George Herrera
12. Orlando Virula
13. Whitford Glenum
14. Erwin Thompson
15. Akeem Hyde
16. Cedric Casimiro
17. Victor Sabal
18. Mathew James

Hopkins Women's Focus Group (22 November 2012)

1. Wilma Ventura
2. Mary Arana
3. Nicole Castillo
4. Carla Ventura
5. Merlene Castillo

Dangriga women's focus group meeting participants (23 November 2012):

1. Vonetta Dawson
2. Shanika McNab
3. Karima Roches

4. Nancy Coleman
5. Leah Lopez
6. Paola Coleman
7. Marian Lamb

ANNEX 4 – PERSONS/STAKEHOLDERS AT SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS VALIDATION WORKSHOP

MCCAP

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

CZMAI TRAINING ROOM, BELIZE CITY

26th September, 2014

GENERAL INTRODUCTION:

The Government of Belize, with the assistance of the World Bank is implementing the project entitled “Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project” (MCCAP) with funding from the Adaptation Fund. The project’s primary objective is to implement priority ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System and its productive marine resources. Implementation of the MCCAP will be over a five (5) year period. The MCCAP has three main components. The project has already been approved and the safeguards instruments are necessary for the Government of Belize to proceed with negotiations with the World Bank.

The overall objective of the consultation workshop held was to finalize the project’s environmental and social safeguards instruments with the main project stakeholders. The process is expected to document stakeholders’ concerns and inputs, and the free, prior and informed consultation process resulting in the achievement of broad community support, inter alia, of the indigenous peoples’ representative organizations. The feedback is to be used to revise the instruments.

ATTENDANCE:

Participants to the consultation meeting included representatives of fisher groups, Fisheries Department, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute, Marine Protected Area Co-Managers, Non-Government Organizations and indigenous peoples (Garinagu).

See end of report for full list of participants.

PROCEEDINGS:

Welcome Remarks and Introduction

The session started with participants being given an official welcome by Mrs. Beverly Wade, Fisheries Administrator. She thank the participants for making the effort to attend after which she gave a brief overview of the project, the social safeguards instruments and their importance and relevance to the MCCAP. She explained that sharing the safeguards instruments and obtaining community feedback is one of the last steps before the actual initiation of the project.

The MCCAP Project – Objectives, Scope and Activities

Fisheries Officer, Mr. Adriel Casteñeda gave a presentation on the description of the project highlight the goals, expected outcomes, objectives, components and activities. He started his presentation by provided the climate change context that is affecting the marine resources

especially the reef. As climate change intensifies small developing countries will have to keep developing new adaptation strategies. The MCCAP project is one such adaptation measure focused on safeguarding Belize's marine resources that has been demonstrated to be important both economically and socially in addition to its environmental value. Mr. Casteñeda presented on all three main components of the project including the budget allocated to each component, as follows:

- **Component 1:** Improving the protection regime of marine and coastal ecosystems (**US\$2 million**)
 - Output 1.1: Revisiting and refining of MPA boundaries
 - Output 1.2: Realignment of MPA zoning schemes (replenishment zones)
 - Output 1.3: Revision and implementation of management plans for three targeted MPAs
 - Output 1.4: Comprehensive monitoring and research program for three targeted MPAs
 - Output 1.5: Management effectiveness studies to help inform MPA management
 - Output 1.6: Implementation of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan
 - Output 1.7: Capacity building to coordinate monitoring of the ICZM Plan's implementation (includes CACs)
 - Output 1.8: Enforcement of development guidelines endorsed in the national ICZM Plan
 - Output 1.9: Enhancement of the protection of mangroves
 - Output 1.10: Strengthening the legal framework for coastal zone management (revision of the CZM Act)
- **Component 2:** Support for viable and sustainable alternative livelihoods for **affected users of the reef** (**US\$2.45 million**)
 - Output 2.1: Community-based Alternative Livelihoods Plans
 - Output 2.2: Development of Business Plans
 - Output 2.3: Capacity Building & Skills Training
 - Output 2.4: Financing & Small Grants Scheme
- **Component 3:** Raising awareness, building local capacity, and disseminating information (**US\$560,000**)
 - Output 3.1: Climate change knowledge, attitude and behavioural practice (KAP) survey
 - Output 3.2: Behaviour change communication campaign
 - Output 3.3: Dissemination of information about project investments

- Output 3.4 & 3.5: Organizational strategic plans and clear organization structures for 4 fishermen's association & a national fishers alliance
- Output 3.6: Comprehensive institutional assessments of the three BFCA members

World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies

After the presentation on the project description, a presentation was given by the consultants explaining the World Bank Environmental and Social safeguard policies related to bank-funded projects. The presentation started by describing the overall objectives of the Bank's Safeguard Policies which are:

- a) to assure that social and environmental aspects are evaluated in the decision-making process;
- b) to reduce and to handle the risks of a programme or project; and
- c) to provide mechanisms for consultation and information disclosure regarding project activities to interested and affected parties.

Each of the specific triggered safeguard policies were then listed out. These include the following:

Environmental

- a. OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment
- b. OP 4.11 Physical Cultural Resources

Social

- a. OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples
- b. OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement

Each of the relevant ESMF policies was described in detail. The purpose, requirements and application were all presented to the participants.

The purpose of the environmental assessment safeguards is to ensure that a project's potential environmental risks and impacts in its area of influence are evaluated. This is to ensure that impacts on the natural environment (air, water and land); human health and safety; physical cultural resources; and trans-boundary environment concerns are considered and addressed. It was explained that Component 2 of the MCCAP supports potential alternative livelihoods activities (for which the exact location and/or nature are not precisely known) including poly-culture of marine products such as seaweed farming combined with cultivation of other marine products (e.g., sea cucumber and crab) in an integrated cultivation system; and marine tourism-based activities such as tour guiding, whale shark tourism, diving, and sailing which could have potential environmental impacts. The application of OP 4.01 entailed the development of an Environmental Management Framework, which conforms to the applicable WB environmental safeguard policies and national regulations. It was further explained that OP 4.11 (Physical Cultural Resources) was triggered as a precautionary measure, given that the MCCAP could involve small structural works and since Belize has thousands of Mayan Antiquities buried under the forests. Chance finds might occur within the project's intervention areas. Further, potential tourism-related livelihood activities could

involve a known cultural site. The objective of OP 4.11 is to avoid, or mitigate, adverse impacts on cultural resources from development projects that the World Bank finances.

The purpose of the social safeguards it was shared is to ensure that the well-being of persons are considered and addressed in Bank funded projects and that it has a development and humanitarian approach. This is to ensure that Bank funded projects are indeed in line with its global poverty reduction mission. It was shared that the application of OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples entailed the development of a social assessment and a culturally appropriate participation plan. Under OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement the relevant section of the policy (Section 3b) was identified and presented. Given the nature of the restrictions under Section 3b, it was explained to the participants that the relevant instrument is the Process Framework rather than an Involuntary Resettlement Policy Framework. Lastly, it was shared that the approach and spirit of OP 4.10 is being extended to all communities given the multi-ethnic and culturally diverse nature of Belize. Social safeguard measures after all are beneficial to both indigenous and non-indigenous peoples alike. OP 4.12 covers both IPs and non-IPs.

The MCCAP Environmental Management Framework (EMF)

The key elements of the Environmental Management Framework were presented and explained to the participants. These elements include:

- a. Environmental Characteristics of the Project Area
- b. Policy, legal and administrative framework
- c. Diagnosis of Impacts – Component 1 and Component 2
- d. Environmental Assessment and Screening
- e. MCCAP Project Cycle
- f. Project Organization and Management

Each of the elements was described in detail as it related to the MCCAP. Some of the key aspects that were highlighted for the participants included the fact that the EMF provides guidance to the project executing agencies (i.e., PACT and MFFSD) for Environmental Assessment procedures consistent with both the World Bank's as well as Belize's procedures. It describes an environmental assessment (EA) process that should be followed in implementing the MCCAP. It was explained that the assessment and mitigation of potential impacts to physical cultural resources is done through the EA Process as well, by including what are called Chance Find Procedures. The MCCAP is categorized as B and requires a partial environmental assessment. This means that during EMF implementation, the project executing agencies are required to consult with project-affected groups and local NGOs about the project's environmental aspects and are required to take their views into account. For meaningful consultations between the project executing agencies and project-affected groups and local NGOs, the project executing agencies are required to provide relevant material in a timely manner prior to consultation and in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to the groups being consulted.

Involuntary Resettlement Policy – Process Framework

The key elements of the Process Framework were presented and explained to the participants. These elements include:

- a. Consultation and Participation Process

- b. Restoration and Mitigation Measures – Component 2.
- c. Grievance Redressal Mechanism
- d. Institutional Arrangements
- e. Monitoring

Each of the elements was described in detail as it related to the MCCAP. Some of the key aspects that were highlighted for the participants included the need to ensure that consultations occurred as part of the process of implementing any restrictions and that such consultation be based on the principles of free, prior and informed consultation. In terms of the restorative measure that will be put in place to address the effects that restrictions may cause, it was explained that this was embedded into the project as component 2 of the project. It was also emphasized that developing the criteria for determining project affected person (PAPs) would be through a collaborative process between the Fisheries Department, MPA co-managers and representative fisher organizations. The purpose and structure of the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) was then shared with the participants. It was shared that a regional structure was considered in the project but in hindsight this may not be necessary as it was not included in the recent BCRIP project. Lastly, it was shared with the participants that the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and the Project Steering Committee (PSC) would be responsible for the implementation of the safeguard measures.

In terms of OP 4.10, the project affected communities identified were shared with the participants including those considered indigenous. There are three such communities in the project area. The potential social impacts were then shared with the participants. These social impacts are grouped into 5 Areas that cover multiple relevant social variables. The positive and negative aspects were discussed with the participants. It was emphasized that the social assessment was an anticipation of potential effects and not necessarily an attempt at predicting the future as that is impossible.

The Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework

Given that the approach and spirit of OP 4.10 was being extended to all affected social groups under the project, and that the restorative measure was embedded in the project as Component 2, it was explained that the culturally appropriate participation plan (Indigenous People's Plan) is a reflection of the Process Framework. Nonetheless, the importance of free, prior and informed consultation and culturally appropriate consultation for all affected communities were re-emphasized.

DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK

MCCAP

Participants sought clarification if the consultation workshop was aimed at obtaining feedback and input in the MCCAP or the safeguards. It was clarified that the project was already developed and approved and that consultation was focused on sharing the environmental and social safeguard instruments. Input and feedback is to be provided for those.

One participant commented that it appears that efforts and initiatives to address climate change are aimed only at the micro-level and not much seems to be happening at the global level to curb the causes of climate change.

World Bank Safeguard Policies

The representative from the National Garifuna Council (NGC) stated that the focus was still on the micro-level (on the “small man”) and not on the macro-level and the severe effects of climate change on societies. The response was that the MCCAP project focuses on, as the name indicates, marine conservation and adaptation to the impacts from climate change. A few participants asked about the meaning of the term “Physical Cultural Resources”. The WB definition was shared with them, as stated on the OP 4.11 information sheet. The NGC representative stated that the Garifuna people have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Belize for access to the territorial seas for intangible cultural purposes, and questioned whether OP 4.11 accounted for such situations. The response was that OP 4.11 focuses on tangible cultural resources. A few participants asked about accessibility to project information throughout project implementation. The response was that the EMF requires the project executing agencies to consult with project-affected groups and local NGOs about the project's environmental aspects and to take their views into account during the life of the project.

Environmental Assessment

Participants did not have many questions or comments related to the Environmental Management Framework. The few comments had to do with the MCCAP project cycle – for example, a participant asked if fisher folks would receive help to prepare alternative livelihood project proposals. The response was that the MCCAP project would have resources allocated to support local people in the design of projects. Another participant noted that alternative livelihood projects would have a better chance at success if the Government of Belize would provide marketing support for such projects. The response was that the PMU would provide extension support throughout the project cycle including marketing guidance and capacity building, so that the projects could be sustained over the long term. Reference was made to the Economic Alternative and Fisheries Diversification (EAFD) Plan that was recently prepared with support from the Fisheries Department, The Nature Conservancy, and fisher leaders. This EAFD Plan provides a useful guide for possible alternative livelihood initiatives that the MCCAP project could support. It was also noted that, since the Department of the Environment (DOE) was not represented at the consultation meeting, the environmental safeguards consultant would need to ensure that the appropriate DOE officer(s) reviews the draft EMF and provides feedback for incorporation into the final report.

Social Safeguards

Participants especially the indigenous peoples' representative from NGC welcomed the new approach being brought out by the development and implementation of safeguards in development projects. One fisher group representative commented that it is a learning process after all and that as generations change better and improved approaches to working with local communities are being developed and implemented.

The IP representative asked if there is a specific definition to indigenous peoples in the World Bank policy. The consultants quoted the reference to IPs verbatim from OP 4.10 in response. A follow up question was asked if Mestizos could be considered indigenous and the response given was that based on the definition provided, this would not be so since as per the definition they would have to self-identify as such and this generally is not the case.

One participant asked whether the PSC would be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the social safeguards and whether they would be familiarized. The latter he said would need to occur so they can carry out the oversight responsibility being given to them. It was affirmed that that was the expectation in regards to oversight.

Participants concurred that the approach and spirit of OP 4.10 should indeed be extended to all project affected communities given the culturally diverse nature of Belizean society.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES/CONCERNS RAISED

The following table presents a list of the issues/concerns raised by the participants at the workshop and the response provided.

Issues/Concerns Raised	Response Given
The focus is on the micro-level (on the “small man”) and not on the macro-level and the severe effects of climate change on societies.	The MCCAP project focuses on marine conservation and adaptation to the impacts from climate change.
Question about the meaning of the term “Physical Cultural Resources”.	The WB definition was shared with them, as stated on the OP 4.11 information sheet.
Question whether OP 4.11 accounts for intangible cultural resources.	OP 4.11 focuses on tangible cultural resources.
Accessibility to project information throughout project implementation.	The EMF requires the project executing agencies to consult with project-affected groups and local NGOs about the project's environmental aspects and to take their views into account during the life of the project.
Fisher folks would need help to design alternative livelihood project proposals.	The MCCAP project will allocate resources to support local people in the design of projects.
Alternative livelihood projects would benefit from marketing support.	The PMU would provide extension support throughout the project cycle including marketing guidance and capacity building.
The Department of the Environment (DOE) was not represented at the consultation meeting.	The appropriate DOE officer(s) will review the draft EMF and provide feedback for incorporation into the final report.

NEXT STEPS/CLOSING REMARKS

Extended Feedback Opportunity

Participants were informed that the draft instruments would be emailed out to them for further consideration, comment and feedback. They were given another week in which they can provide

feedback. The consultants provided their email and phone contacts to facilitate any question or comments they may have. (NB: There was no written feedback submitted by the deadline).

Finalization of Instruments

The deadline for feedback and comments is Monday, 13th October, 2014. After this date, the consultants will incorporate feedback obtained from the workshop and any other feedback obtained thereafter to finalize the safeguard instruments. These will then be submitted to PACT and the Fisheries Department for onward submission to the World Bank.

Official Disclosure

Participants were informed that once the final safeguard instruments have been accepted and approved, they will be officially disclosed through various public media. This includes the PACT and Fisheries Department websites and the World Bank InfoShop. Participants were advised that they too could host the documents on their websites. Lastly, it was recommended by the consultants that fisher groups hold hard copies of the instruments at their local offices.

ATTENDANCE AT WORKSHOP

1. Ralna Lewis – Wildlife Conservation Society
2. Ellis Guzman – Seine Bight Village Council
3. Joel Verde – Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development
4. Estela Requena – Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association
5. Angela Usher – PACT
6. Nayari Diaz Perez – PACT
7. Eleodoro Martinez – Chunox Fishermen Association
8. Cesar Munoz – Sarteneja Fishermen Association
9. Vincent Gillett – Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute
10. Sidney Fuller – Central Belize Fishermen Association
11. Allan Burn – Central Belize Fishermen Association
12. Francisco Zuniga – National Garifuna Council
13. Levan Aldana – Central Belize Fishermen Association
14. Andrew Castillo – Hopkins Fishermen Association
15. Osmany Salas – Consultant, EMF
16. Valentino Shal – Consultant, SMF
17. Adriel Casteneda – Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Department
18. Beverly Wade – Fisheries Administrator, Fisheries Department